鈴木次郎

「ついに来た！ひぐらしの季節です。
あの人たちがやってきます。
今年は誰がやってくるのでしょうか。
楽しみですね。
皆さんにお会いするのが。
待ち遠しいです！
雛見沢の皆さん、
また、いつものように
歓迎してくださいね。」

ひぐらしのなく頃に

07th Expansion presents Volume 7 is in motion.

When they cry.

祟殺し編 2

原作・監修
竜騎士07

作画
鈴木次郎

GFC
GAMEFAN COMICS
祟殺し編 2

ひぐらしのなく頃に

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When they cry.

原作・監修
竜騎士07

作画
鈴木次郎

SC

ISBN4-7575-1712-2
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雑誌48074-02
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SQUARE ENIX.

story

――あの男を殺す。

昭和58年、御三家。

主一は仲間達と楽しい日々をすごしていた。しかし大石刑事一オヤジはさまざまな手を弄するとともに狙われる。変わり始める、沙都子の突然の不登校、悪因は彼女の叔父、鉄平が雛見沢に舞い戻ったことにあった。主一は自分の無力さを思い知らされる。沙都子のためにできること、それは、あの男の抹殺。そしてその先には鬼ヤオヤジの影が。3人の少女と鬼ヤオヤジ一人によって「祟殺し編」ここに決着！

ひぐらしのなく頃に

07th Expansion presents Volume 7 is in motion.

When they cry.

©07th Expansion／鈴木次郎

『ひぐらしの　く頃に』
シリーズ絶賛発売中!!
原作・監修　竜騎士07

「皆殺し編」作画／鈴羅木かりん
B6判／各巻定価600円（税込み）

「綿流し編」作画／古嶋ゆかり
B6判／1巻定価600円（税込み）
2巻定価680円（税込み）

「ひぐらしのなく頃に(ネ)」全国サービス応募用紙 ページ下

この応募券を、3枚切り(9)「鬼隠し編」or「綿流し編」のどちらかにある応募券と共にお送りしてください。
(同じ1セットのご応募はしてもらえ応募方法をご覧ください)

悟史編はクライマックスへ――!!

TVアニメ放送中頃に

原作・脚本・監督・絵コンテ・演出 竜騎士07
作画監督 鈴木次郎

SC

関西テレビ 5分後テレビ テレビ テレビ神奈川 東海テレビ
毎週土曜 深夜1:45~2:00

予想しながら一気呵成のような怒涛の展開。最終話見逃すな!!(マジ)

絶賛発売中!! 鬼隠し編(1~2) 綿流し編(1~2)

3巻購入者限定応募者全員サービス「出題編コミック完全収納ボックス」が…

現在製作中のDVDアニメーション「ひぐらしのなく頃に」出題編コミック 完全収納ボックス

「ひぐらしのなく頃に」「出題編」3巻 「ひぐらしのなく頃に」「出題編」収納ボックス 応募者全員サービス

「ひぐらしのなく頃に」「出題編」3巻購入者限定サービス!!
「ひぐらしのなく頃に」「出題編」収納ボックス
(数量限定)

素殺し編
Jiro Suzuki

ひぐらしのなく頃に

©07th Expansion presents Welcome to Hinamizawa
WHEN THEY CRY

ひぐらしのなく頃に

祟殺し編 2

原作・監修 竜騎士07

作画 鈴木次郎

ひぐらしのなく頃に 祟殺し編 2

GFC COMICS

ひぐらしのなく頃に 祟殺し編 2

原作・監修 竜騎士07

作画 鈴木次郎

SE

鉄子の部屋

SQUARE ENIX

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ひぐらしのなく頃に

07th Expansion presents Welcome to Hinamizawa.
"WHEN THEY CRY."

第6話
WOULD YOU GO FIND HOUJO SATOKO FOR ME?
WHY SATOKO, OF ALL PEOPLE?
I'D APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL. I JUST WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HER BROTHER
NO, THAT'S NOT IT... THAT'S WRONG... THIS MAN SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
IT...

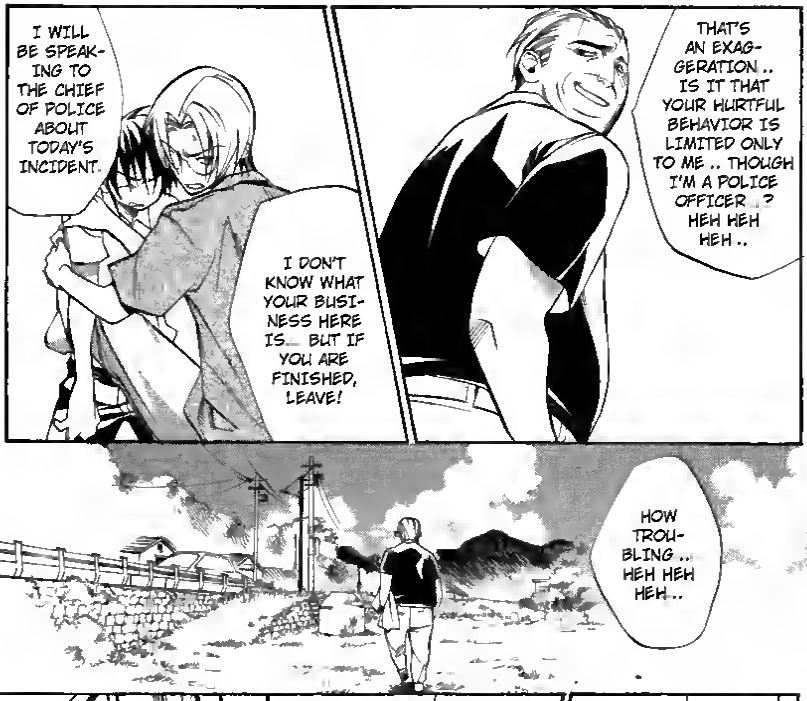
IT MAY NOT BE A BIG DEAL TO YOU, BUT SATOKO DOESN'T FEEL THAT WAY... PLEASE GO AWAY.
HA HA HA HA !!!
THAT'S PRETTY HARSH. WHAT ARE YOU, HER MANAGER OR SOMETHING? "I'M SORRY, NO INTERVIEW WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT!"
IF YOU ONLY WANT TO TALK TO HER, WHY NOT JUST CALL HER ON THE PHONE? TO COME LOOKING FOR HER AT SCHOOL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY... THAT'S JUST WEIRD.
WELL ...
THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD ARGUMENT, HUH..
I'M WEAK AGAINST PEOPLE WHO ARGUE LIKE THAT..

HEY, YOU OVER THERE! GOT A MINUTE?
I'D LIKE YOU TO GO FIND HOUJOU SATOKO-SAN FOR ME.
UM...
HOUJOU-SAN IS... SHE'S ABSENT TODAY.
ABSENT ?
HAHA-HAHA!
LOOKS LIKE I'M OUT OF LUCK.
STARTLE
--SO. YOU.
CAN YOU TELL ME THIS YOUNG MAN'S NAME? HMM?
DA DA DA...
UM... "MAEBARA KEIICHI."

AH... COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE THAT MAEBARA YASHIKI'S KID?
HA HA HA
YOUR DAD'S A PRETTY WELL-KNOWN ARTIST, ISN'T HE?
AND YOUR MOTHER SEEMS LIKE AN INTELLIGENT WOMAN, TOO. HAS SHE TOLD YOU ABOUT HER ACADEMIC CAREER AT ALL?
SHE'S FROM A HUMBLE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, ISN'T SHE? IT'S AMAZING THAT SHE GRADUATED SO YOUNG, ISN'T IT? COULD IT BE BECAUSE OF HER FAMILY, HMM?
SHE ONLY EVER CAME TO ONE MEETING OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION. THAT'S NOT VERY GOOD, IS IT?
IN A TOWN LIKE THIS, YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS CAN'T BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, CAN IT? HEH HEH HEH...
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE RUMORS GOING AROUND?
...IN A TOWN LIKE THIS...

...IT'S BEST NOT TO MAKE ENEMIES, DON'T YOU THINK?
OTHER-WISE...
GRAB
...YOU MAY BE AT A BIT OF A DISADVAN-TAGE... THERE MIGHT EVEN BE TALK OF RETRIBUTION, YOU KNOW?
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THE RESENT-MENT YOU'VE GAINED IN THIS STRANGE PLACE, THEN I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL RETURN. THAT WOULD BE BAD, RIGHT?
!!
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
TH... THAT HURTS!
PLEASE LET HIM GO. HE IS COM-PLAINING OF PAIN.

HEY... THAT'S... IF IT ISN'T DR. IRIE... WE'VE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH LATELY, HAVEN'T WE...
I EVEN THOUGHT OF GOING TO YOUR PLACE...
...SINCE YOU'RE ALWAYS TOO BUSY FOR IDLE CHAT...
WELL, HOW MUCH DID YOU REALLY WANT THAT CONVERSATION? IF YOU WERE WAITING FOR A WRITTEN INVITATION...
...IT'S BECAUSE I CAN REFUSE TO GO ALONG WITH POLICE INTERROGATION, ISN'T IT?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! MAEBARA-SAN!!
...NGH...
HAHA HAHA HA!!!
OOF!
THUD
HEH...


I WILL BE SPEAKING TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE ABOUT TODAY'S INCIDENT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR BUSINESS HERE IS... BUT IF YOU ARE FINISHED, LEAVE!
THAT'S AN EXAGGERATION.. IS IT THAT YOUR HURTFUL BEHAVIOR IS LIMITED ONLY TO ME .. THOUGH I'M A POLICE OFFICER ..? HEH HEH HEH..
HOW TROUBLING.. HEH HEH HEH..

THAT WAS A POLICE OFFICER BY THE NAME OF OOISHI KURAUDO... THE MAN IS A THUG WHO HATES THIS WHOLE VILLAGE
SHIT... WHO THE HELL WAS THAT GUY?!

EVEN THOUGH IT REALLY HURT, I HAVEN'T GOT A SINGLE BRUISE...
PERHAPS HE'S GROWING COMPLA-CENT...
...BUT... WHAT HAPPENED? THAT YOU WOULD GET INTO A FIGHT WITH HIM...
HE... HE SAID HE HAD BUSINESS WITH SATO-KO...
.....
BOTHE-RING...?
... AH...
SO THAT MAN IS STILL BOTHERING SATOKO-CHAN...
SO... HE COMES LOOKING FOR HER A LOT?

.....
MAEBARA-SAN HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY OF SATOKO-CHAN AND OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE?
THE ONE ABOUT HOW SATOKO'S PARENTS WERE SUPPORTERS OF THE DAM PROJECT AND THEY FELL TO THEIR DEATHS .?
THEN DID YOU KNOW...
...THAT WHEN SATOKO-CHAN'S PARENTS PASSED AWAY, SHE AND HER BROTHER SATOSHI-KUN WERE FORCED TO GO LIVE WITH THEIR UNCLE?
I- IS THAT RIGHT...
THE UNCLE WAS... THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF SATOKO-CHAN'S FATHER...
IT WAS A TERRIBLE THING... NEITHER HE OR HIS WIFE PLACED MUCH VALUE IN RESPECT

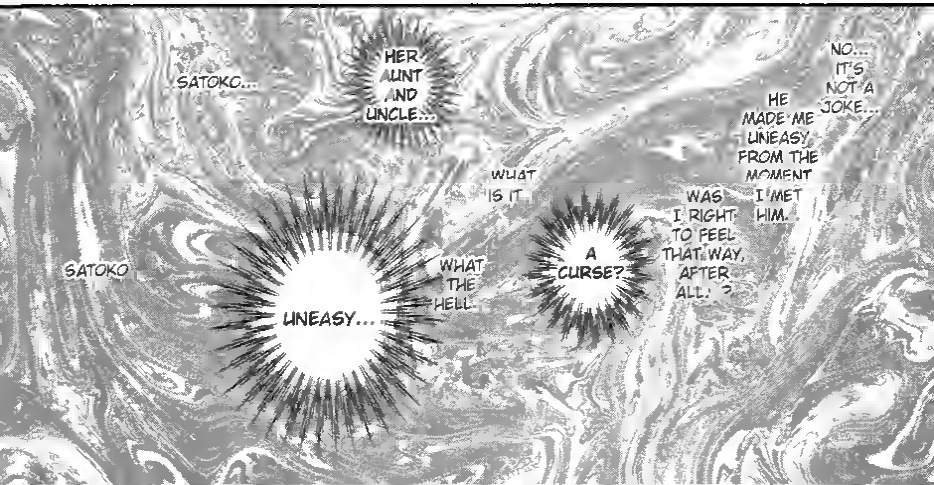
THEIR AUNT AND UNCLE ALWAYS QUARRELED...
AT THE SAME TIME THAT HER UNCLE BECAME HER GUARDIAN, SATOKO'S HOUSE AND ALL OF ITS FINANCIAL ASSETS WERE ABSORBED
HER PARENTS HAD BEEN IN FAVOR OF THE DAM PROJECT, SO OF COURSE HER UNCLE WAS QUITE ASHAMED OF THEM...
THEY WERE BLAMED FOR EVERY-THING SCOLDING THEM, YELLING AT THEM, HITTING THEM, PUN-ISHING THEM AND CALLING THEM NAMES, AND DENYING THEM MEALS
THEY SHOVED SATOKO-CHAN AND SATOSHI-KUN INTO A TINY ROOM, FORCING THEM INTO A LIFE THAT CON-STRAINED BOTH THEIR BODIES AND THEIR SPIRITS
THEY DIDN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT SATOKO AND HER BROTHER SO, FOR THE TWO OF THEM, IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT TIME, I'VE HEARD

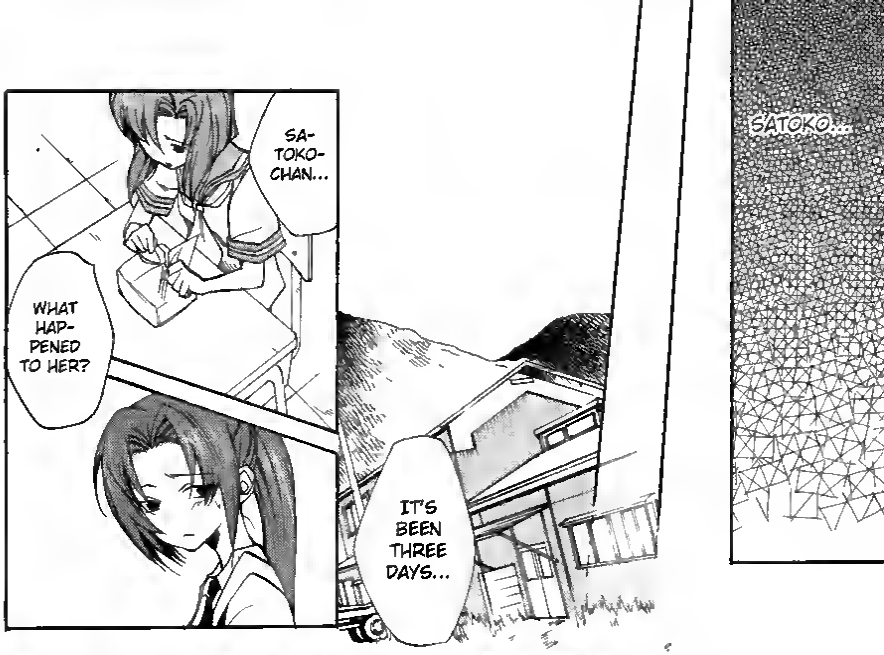
.....
SHE WAS DEATHLY PALE, LISTLESS, STAYED IN THE SHADE... YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE...
... EVEN NOW, IT GIVES ME CHILLS TO REMEMBER IT... AND YOU, WHO ONLY KNOW SATOKO AS THE LIVELY GIRL SHE IS NOW...

...AND ALSO CONFESSED TO THE OTHER CRIMES, SO A SETTLEMENT WAS MADE, BUT...
THE MAN WAS ARRESTED FOR ILLEGAL DRUG USE...
...AND BECAUSE THERE ARE RUMORS THAT ON THE NIGHT OF THE WATANAGASHI FESTIVAL, THE ENEMIES OF THE TOWN ARE KILLED BY A CURSE, HER DEATH WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE CURSE OF OYASHIRO-SAMA.
...AND THEN, ON THE NIGHT OF LAST YEAR'S WATANAGASHI FESTIVAL... HER AUNT WAS BEATEN TO DEATH BY A DRUG ADDICT...
...THEN THAT MAN GOT ON THEIR CASE, AS IF FOLLOWING IN THEIR UNCLE'S WAKE.
..SO THEY WERE SET FREE? SATOKO AND HER BROTHER, I MEAN?
WELL, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THAT THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO TORMENT THE TWO OF THEM, BUT...
..BECAUSE THE UNCLE WAS A PERSON OF HINAMIZAWA, HE WAS STILL VERY FRIGHTENED OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.
. SO HE WENT TO LIVE WITH HIS MISTRESS IN OKINOMIYA.
OOISHI IS A BIT STRANGE... EVERYONE'S TRYING TO WORK OUT THE SERIES OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE CURSE, BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE THAT.
THEY SAY MISFORTUNE SURELY FOLLOWS THOSE WHO GET CLOSE TO HIM....
IN HINAMIZAWA, OOISHI IS KNOWN AS...

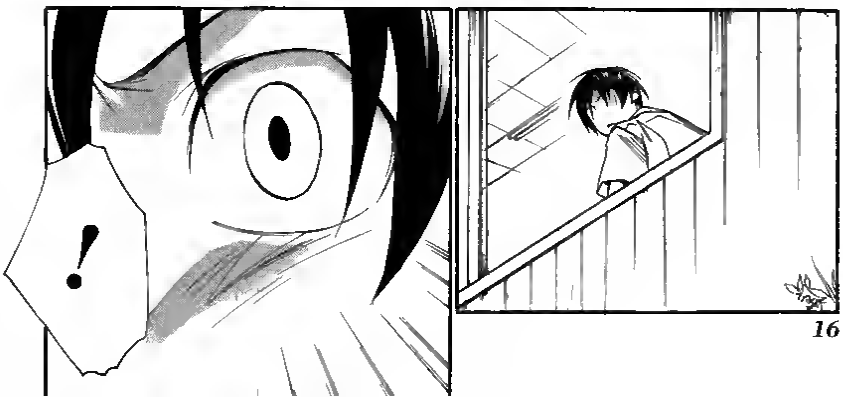
"The Messenger of Oyashiro-sama."
ONE YEAR AGO, HE HAD CONTACT WITH SATOSHI BEFORE HE DISAP-PEARED...
TWO YEARS AGO, JUST BEFORE RIKA'S MOTH-ER'S DISAP-PEARANCE, OOISHI HAD QUITE A LOT OF CONTACT WITH THEM.
THREE YEARS AGO, JUST BEFORE SATOKO'S PARENTS' FALL... HE VISITED THEIR HOUSE A NUMBER OF TIMES.
FOUR YEARS AGO, JUST BEFORE THE MURDER AND DISMEM-BERMENT INCI-DENT, OOISHI HAD CONTACT WITH THE VICTIM NUMER-OUS TIMES.
AND SO, THIS YEAR...
W- WHY?
THERE IS A RUMOR THAT HE CHOSE THE VICTIMS OF THE CURSE EACH YEAR.

Y... YOU'RE JOKING... RIGHT?
IT'S SIMPLY A RUMOR, MAEBARA-SAN. ALL I DID WAS PASS IT ON.
WELL THEN, MAEBARA-SAN, I'M OFF TO THE STAFF ROOM...
YOU HAD BEST RETURN QUICKLY, TOO.
.....
OO-ISHI...
THE MES-SEN-GER OF OYA-SHI-RO-SA-MA...


NO... IT'S NOT A JOKE...
HE MADE ME UNEASY FROM THE MOMENT I MET HIM.
WAS I RIGHT TO FEEL THAT WAY, AFTER ALL...?
HER AUNT AND UNCLE...
SATOKO...
WHAT IS IT
A CURSE?
WHAT THE HELL
SATOKO
UNEASY...


SATOKO...
SA-TOKO-CHAN...
WHAT HAP-PENED TO HER?
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS...

LIKE I'D KNOW...


!

SATOKO!
...SA--
SATOKOOO!!
!
SUDDENLY SHOUTING AND COMING RUNNING... WHAT SURPRISED YOU?
W... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, KEIICHI-SAN?

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU? THREE DAYS!! I WAS SO WORRIED...!!
I THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T TAKE ME TERRIBLY LONG, BUT I SUPPOSE THAT WAS PRIDE ON MY PART.
MY APOLOGIES. I HAD SOME HOUSE CLEANING TO DO.
HUH? CLEANING YOUR HOUSE FOR THREE DAYS...?
OH, LOOK AT THE TIME- ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME FOR LUNCH?
I'M RATHER HUNGRY.
WELL, ALL RIGHT...
RIKA-CHAN HAS BEEN BRINGING YOUR LUNCH FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS, SO WHY DON'T YOU GO ON INSIDE AND SET EVERYONE'S WORRIES TO REST?
IS THAT SO! I WAS NOT AWARE THAT I HAD CAUSED EVERYONE WORRY. OHO-HO, I MUST BE MORE POPULAR THAN I THOUGHT!
SOMEHOW... SHE LOOKS. WEAKER.
LOOKING AT HER AGAIN...
THE UNEASE DISAPPEARED..
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

I WAS WORRIED SICK! COME SEE ME AFTER CLASS!
MY, SENSEI, I WAS AWAY ONLY THREE DAYS, AND YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME! I'M QUITE ALL RIGHT!
HOU-JOU-SAN?!
.....
SHE'S PROBABLY GOING TO SCOLD ME FOR PLAY-ING HOOKY FOR THREE DAYS
OH HO HO HO
AH HA HA
...MION...?

SLAM
PLEASE WAIT FOR ME, EVERY-ONE.
WELL, THEN, I'M OFF TO THE STAFF ROOM!
YES... I THOUGHT SO TOO...
.....
SO...
IS IT JUST ME, OR DOES SATOKO SEEM A BIT... DIF-FERENT, TODAY?
MION, ARE YOU... POS-SIBLY...
...HIDING SOMETHING FROM US?
IT'S NOT THAT I'M HIDING SOME-THING... IT'S...

...WELL, I KNOW THAT... THIS PAST SUNDAY, SATOKO'S UNCLE SUDDENLY RETURNED TO HINAMIZAWA.
WH...
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?!
S... SORRY...!!
AND RUMOR SAYS BECAUSE OF THAT, SATOKO'S BEEN SHUT IN HER HOUSE, BEING TORMENTED WHILE BEING MADE TO DO ALL THE HOUSEWORK.
....

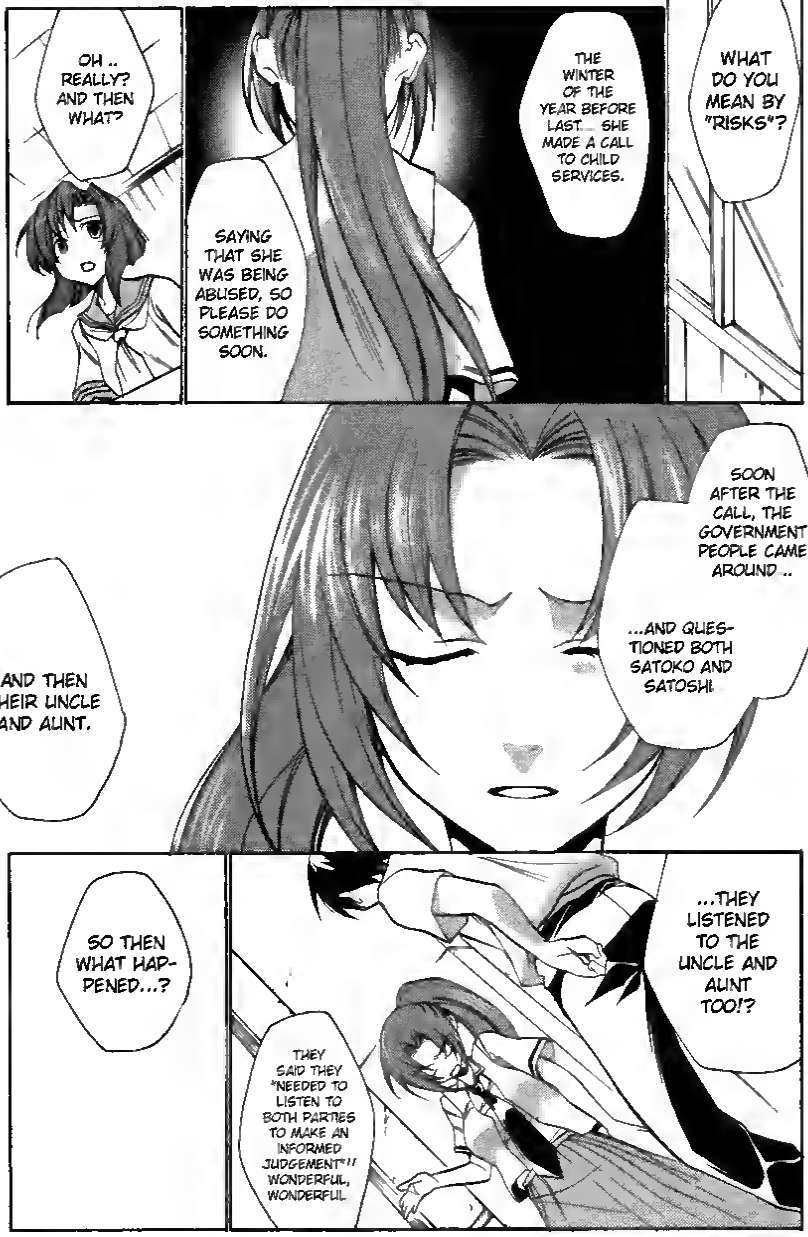
...KEIICHI-KUN, DON'T SAY SUCH CARELESS THINGS
.. IF SATOKO IS SO VALUABLE TO HIM, HE WOULDN'T BE CRUEL TO HER, RIGHT...?
B-BUT... HER UNCLE CAN'T DO THE HOUSEWORK HIMSELF, RIGHT?
MII-CHAN, IS THAT TRUE ...!?
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES, SO... I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT...
SATOSHI-KUN ISN'T HERE.
DID... DID RENA KNOW...?
I DIDN'T. UNTIL I HEARD IT NOW, I HAD NO IDEA THAT SATOKO'S UNCLE WAS BACK.
BUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE DIFFERENT THAN THEY WERE A YEAR AGO.
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SATOSHI-KUN WAS A GOOD OLDER BROTHER. HE ALWAYS PROTECTED SATOKO FROM THEIR CRUEL AUNT AND UNCLE...
THE REASON THE UNCLE HAS COME BACK TO HINAMIZAWA IS THAT THE LOVER HE WAS LIVING WITH HAS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED, RIGHT?
YOU THINK HE'LL BE KIND TO SATOKO IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES?
...I'M SORRY...
--AH... I'M SORRY FOR JUST NOW...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO PRESS THE MATTER LIKE THAT...
ALLRIGHT, LUNCHTIME'S OVER! EVERYONE BACK TO THEIR SEAT!

ALL RIGHT!! SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE THAT ALL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PRESENT, LET'S HAVE THAT "LONG TIME NO SEE" CHEER!
YEAH! YOU'VE GOT TO COME!
Hey! It's just like you wished, isn't it, Satoko-chan! Come on, let's go!
THANK YOU, BUT ALTHOUGH I WOULD LIKE TO...
...THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS I MUST GET DONE..
HUH! ARE YOU SERIOUS!? EVEN THOUGH DESERTING UNDER FIRE IS THE FAST TRACK TO A PUNISHMENT GAME?
..STOP IT, MII-CHAN .. WE SHOULDN'T ASK TOO MUCH OF HER
I REALLY AM HAPPY, THOUGH.
...NEVER FEAR, NEXT TIME YOU BATTLE I'LL BE HERE TO BEAT YOU ALL!

SA-
TO-
KO...
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
.....
...WAS THAT... TOO MEAN?
.....
...RIKA-CHAN... MAY I TALK WITH YOU FOR A MINUTE?

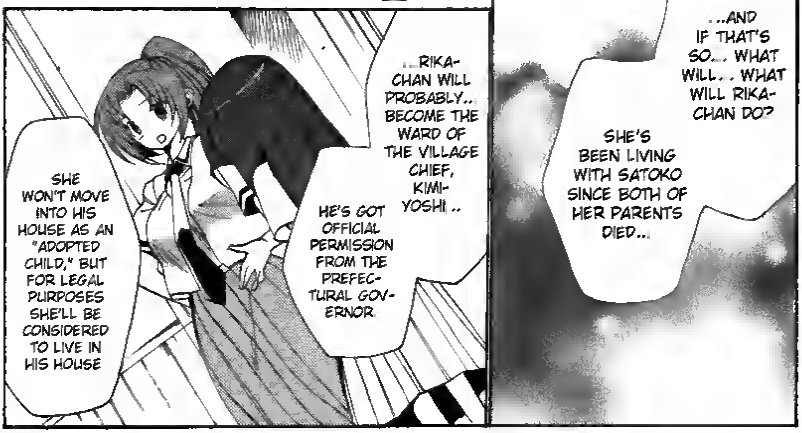
...LAST YEAR... WHEN SATOKO WAS LIVING WITH HER AUNT AND UNCLE... WERE THINGS LIKE THIS?
WELL BACK THEN, THINGS THAT SEEMED LIKE THE RESULT OF HER AUNT AND UNCLE'S INVOLVEMENT WERE FREQUENT.
SO SHE WASTED A LOT OF TIME WITH THE CLUB IN ORDER TO SHORTEN HER TIME AT HOME.
BUT NOW THAT SHE'S BEING FORCED TO DO ALL THE HOUSEWORK, SHE CAN'T EVEN DO THAT...
DAMMIT!! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!?
ISN'T IT WEIRD TO JUST ACT LIKE THINGS ARE NORMAL!?
ISN'T THIS MALTREATMENT!? CAN'T WE TELL THE POLICE!?
THAT'S RIGHT! IF THERE'S EVIDENCE OF ABUSE, CAN'T WE INFORM THEM?
OR MAYBE TELL THE DISTRICT WELFARE OFFICER?
THAT'S EASY ENOUGH TO SAY, BUT...
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF THE RISKS OF PROVING THAT?


WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "RISKS"?
THE WINTER OF THE YEAR BEFORE LAST... SHE MADE A CALL TO CHILD SERVICES.
SAYING THAT SHE WAS BEING ABUSED, SO PLEASE DO SOMETHING SOON.
OH .. REALLY? AND THEN WHAT?
SOON AFTER THE CALL, THE GOVERNMENT PEOPLE CAME AROUND ..
...AND QUESTIONED BOTH SATOKO AND SATOSHI.
AND THEN THEIR UNCLE AND AUNT.
...THEY LISTENED TO THE UNCLE AND AUNT TOO!?
THEY SAID THEY "NEEDED TO LISTEN TO BOTH PARTIES TO MAKE AN INFORMED JUDGEMENT"!! WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL
SO THEN WHAT HAPPENED...?

NOTHING.
DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS...
WHAT !?
THE LAW DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT AS ASSAULT OR NEGLIGENCE, AND THEY WOULDN'T CALL IT ABUSE EITHER.
..AND... WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
FOR A LITTLE WHILE THE DISTRICT WELFARE OFFICER CHECKED UP ON THEM EVERY WEEK DURING THAT TIME THE COUPLE WASN'T NOTICEABLY CRUEL TO THE KIDS, BUT
IT DIDN'T END THERE, OF COURSE.
IT SEEMED LIKE THEY PUSHED THE TWO OF THEM HARD, BUT THEY NEVER LEFT SCARS, AND THEY GAVE THEM TWO MEALS AND A BED.
AND IT WASN'T LIKE THERE WAS ANY TAPED EVIDENCE OF THEIR EMOTIONALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR.

...WELL... THE AUNT, ESPECIALLY, WAS PERSISTENT...
ARE YOU SAYING THEY INCREASED THEIR VICIOUS BULLYING?
YOU COULD SAY IT WAS A PERSISTENCE CHARACTERISTIC OF WOMEN
SHE DID THINGS THAT DIDN'T SEEM FAIR
SATOKO AT THE END SHE SEEMED LIKE A WORN-OUT DOLL WHO COULD ONLY BREATHE
GET IT NOW? AS LONG AS THERE'S NO DEFINITE EVIDENCE THAT'S CLEAR TO ANYONE'S EYES... THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO...
...THAT WAS... OUR MISTAKE...

...WE CAN'T ALERT ANYONE?
...THEN... UNTIL WE FIND SOME EVIDENCE THAT'S CLEAR TO ANYONE'S EYES..
"UNTIL NOW THEY WERE SEPARATED, BUT NOW HE'S RETURNED AND TAKEN HER BACK INTO HIS HEART"... THAT'S WHAT THEY'LL SAY!
WE EELL, IF HER UNCLE STILL WASN'T AROUND THEY MIGHT RECOGNIZE THAT, BUT... AREN'T THEY LIVING TOGETHER AGAIN NOW?
THAT'S RIGHT. . SATOKO'S UNCLE WENT OFF FOR A WHOLE YEAR TO LIVE WITH HIS MISTRESS, COMPLETELY DISREGARDING SATOKO'S EXISTENCE...
THAT WOULD COUNT AS NEGLIGENCE, RIGHT!?
YOU SAY WE HAVE TO WATCH SILENTLY!
WHAT IS THIS...
LEAVING GREAT BIG WOUNDS.
SO ALREADY... HE'S BEEN ROUGH WITH SATOKO...
WHAT IS THIS...


...AND IF THAT'S SO... WHAT WILL... WHAT WILL RIKA-CHAN DO?
SHE'S BEEN LIVING WITH SATOKO SINCE BOTH OF HER PARENTS DIED...
...RIKA-CHAN WILL PROBABLY.. BECOME THE WARD OF THE VILLAGE CHIEF, KIMI-YOSHI ..
HE'S GOT OFFICIAL PERMISSION FROM THE PREFEC-TURAL GOV-ERNOR
SHE WON'T MOVE INTO HIS HOUSE AS AN "ADOPTED CHILD," BUT FOR LEGAL PURPOSES SHE'LL BE CONSIDERED TO LIVE IN HIS HOUSE

BUT... IF IT'S THE CHIEF THAT'S LOOKING AFTER HER, THAT WOULD BE OKAY!! HE COULD BECOME HER GUARDIAN, RIGHT!?
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE! SATOKO IS A GROWING GIRL! IT'S NOT LIKE ENTRUSTING A KITTEN TO SOMEONE!

..SO IF THE CHIEF CAN BECOME RIKA-CHAN'S GUARDIAN EVEN IF THEY DON'T LIVE IN THE SAME PLACE .. THEN .. COULDN'T HE ALSO BE SATOKO'S GUARDIAN IN NAME ONLY?
THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE! HER UNCLE IS HER LEGAL GUARDIAN!
THOUGH HE ABANDONED HER FOR ONE WHOLE YEAR, HE'S STILL LOOKING AFTER HER!
HER UNCLE MAY SEIZE HER FOOD AND HER BED, BUT AS LONG AS SHE SHARES HIS NAME, THE VILLAGE CHIEF CAN'T DO ANY-THING! IT WON'T BE REC-OGNIZED!

DON'T THINK OF SATOKO AS A PET!!
UHH... THE MANAGER! WHAT ABOUT HIM? I'M NOT SURE, BUT... HE'S RICH, RIGHT?
HE'S TOLD PEOPLE OVER AND OVER, THAT'S JUST TALK! HE'S SINGLE, SO HE ISN'T CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO LOOK AFTER HER.
THAT'S WHY... THE MANAGER CAN'T DO IT!! A SINGLE PERSON CAN'T BE A GUARDIAN TO A CHILD!
THAT'S RIGHT!! HE SAID IT HIMSELF, DIDN'T HE?
YOU GUYS DON'T CARE ABOUT SATOKO AT ALL!!! YOU DON'T REALLY WORRY ABOUT HER!!
THAT...!! THAT'S .. NOT IT AT ALL!! I'M JUST SAYING THAT IT'S NOT THAT EASY...
WHAT, WHAT IS THIS? DAMMIT! I'M THINKING OF WAYS TO SAVE SATOKO, BUT YOU ONLY SAY IT'S ALL USELESS!!!

IT ISN'T THAT COMPLICATED! I'M JUST SAYING THAT WE JUST NEED TO FIND SOMEONE WEALTHY TO LOOK AFTER SATOKO FOR A LITTLE WHILE!!
M- MY FAMILY!!? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!! THAT SORT OF THING... IT'D NEVER BE ALLOWED!!
THAT'S RIGHT... YOUR FAMILY'S ONE OF THE THREE GREAT FAMILIES, RIGHT!? AND YOU'VE GOT A HUGE HOUSE, RIGHT!!?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOM IN OKINOMIYA? SHE'S GOT A BIG HOUSE TOO, DOESN'T SHE?!
N... NO, NO, NO!! ESPECIALLY NOT THE OKINOMIYA HOUSE!! IT WOULD NEVER, EVER BE ALLOWED!
HEY, HEY, HEY! YOU USUALLY BRAG ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT YOUR FAMILY IS, AND NOW YOU'RE ALL INDECISIVE!? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET SATOKO DIE WITHOUT HELPING!?
...THAT'S NOT IT ! BUT... THAT AND THIS KIND OF TALK...
"THEY'RE DIFFERENT," IS THAT IT?! YOU'RE SO COLD!! A FRIEND OF YOURS IS IN TROUBLE! HELP HER!!! YOU'RE A LEADER, RIGHT!? OF THE CLUB!! I'M APPEALING TO YOUR HUMAN NATURE!! LISTEN TO ME!!
SAY SOMETHING, SONOZAKI MION!!

SDB
SNIFF
SNIFF
SDB
...MII?
HA
HA

...KEIICHI-KUN, IF MII-CHAN CAN'T DO IT, SHOULD WE BE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WEALTHY FAMILY?
I KNOW SOMEONE ELSE IN HINAMIZA-WA WHO'S GOT A BIG HOUSE
IT SHOULD BE CLEAR ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T REALIZE THAT YOUR HOUSE IS BIG?
W.. WHO IS IT?

...M...MY HOUSE HUH MY HOUSE IS...
COME ON, KEIICHI-KUN, YOUR FRIEND IS IN TROUBLE- HELP HER OUT YOU CALLED MII-CHAN COLD FOR SAYING NO.
SO WHY DON'T YOU SET AN EXAMPLE FOR US ALL?
YOUR HOUSE IS BIG, SO YOU MUST HAVE ROOM. IT WOULD BE NICE OF YOU TO GIVE SATOKO-CHAN SOMEWHERE TO GO.
THAT SHOULD SETTLE YOUR WORRIES! SO HOW ABOUT IT? IS IT RESOLVED?
WAS THAT NOT ENOUGH TALK!? THEN WE'RE DONE FOR TODAY? SHOULD WE ALL GO ON A LONG TREASURE HUNT? DON'T JUST SIT THERE SILENTLY!
LISTEN TO ME, MAEBARA KEIICHI !!!!
SFX. MIII MIN MIIN MII!

.....
KATAN
MM... IT'S OKAY. I'M.. SORRY TOO...
KATAN
SORRY, MION...

SFX. MIN MIN

.....
SO... I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO... IS WAIT FOR A MIRA-CLE...

WE'RE POWER-LESS... ALL OF US...
SFX: MN MN
STEP...

THIS IS SATOKO'S HOUSE...
THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...
I'M GOING TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING...
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING...
MANAGER...
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE! IS YOUR HOUSE IN THIS DIRECTION?
SBAM
!
SATOKO!
AS I RETURNED FROM DOING THE SHOPPING, I MET WITH THE MANAGER.
I ASKED IF HE WOULD INDULGE ME BY ESCORTING ME HOME...
OH, KEIICHI-SAN...

WHERE'S HER UNCLE? AND WHAT'S HE DOING?
SHE WENT THAT FAR FOR GROCERIES?
HEY, HEY RIGHT NOW, THIS MINUTE
THAT BAG IT'S FROM A SUPER-MARKET OUTSIDE OF THE VILLAGE!
!!
I AM INDEBTED TO THE MANAGER FOR SAVING ME. THIS HILL ROAD IS A BIT.. DIFFICULT.
SA-TOKO... ALONE... FOR THIS UN-NECESSARY SHOPPING...
H.. HEY, SATOKO.. THOSE AREN'T.. SIDE DISHES FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER, ARE THEY?
..OF COURSE. I.. CAN'T STAND LIQUOR OR TOBACCO..
RIGHT NOW, WHERE IS
SA-TO-KO-OO!!!

C'MERE AND GIMME THE GAS FOR HEAT-ING THE SAKE, YOU LITTLE WHORE!!!

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Translation: Emma
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Proofreading QC: Gitani
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第7話

An overpowering bellow at Satoko.

UNCLE...?
SATOKO'S...
TECCHAN YOU'RE SO STRICT TO THAT GIRL OF YOURS. ISN'T SHE PATHETIC ENOUGH AS IT IS?
THAT MAN IS...
THAT'S WHAT TECCHAN BELIEVES.
THAT BRAT GETS WHAT SHE DESERVES! SHE NEVER DID WHAT SHE WAS TOLD WHEN HER BIG BRO WAS AROUND!
OH... SORRY, SORRY... MAN, TSUBAKI YOU KEEP GETTING "REACH."
TSUBAKI-SAN, YOU GOT "REACH" AGAIN?
MY UNCLE'S FRIENDS CAME HERE FROM TOWN... ...THEY'RE PLAYING MAHJONG.
...THEY SAID I HAVE TO PREPARE DINNER FOR THEM.
!
WHA...
WHAT'S... HE...
...NOW THEN, MAEBARA-SAN, PLEASE HELP OUT AS WELL. HEY, SINCE YOU'RE A BOY PLEASE CARRY THE HEAVY BAGS.
MANAGER ...!!
THEY MADE SATOKO BUY THESE ABSURD THINGS...
MAHJONG... BY THEMSELVES...?
PLAYING... BY THEMSELVES...?

IS IT ALL RIGHT TO MAKE HER GO SO FAR!!? I'D NEVER MAKE HER DO SUCH A THING...
...I'LL CARRY TWO BAGS AS WELL... HERE... MAE-BARA-SAN, PLEASE HELP CARRY THEM AS WELL.
...!
!
KEIICHI-SAN, ISN'T THAT HEAVY...? DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF...
STUPID. DON'T UNDERESTI-MATE ME.
HOW...
HEAVY.

GYA HA HA HA!!
GAHAHA! THERE IT IS! RON!!
.....
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. YOUR ASSISTANCE TRULY SAVED ME.

YES... THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
I CAME ALL THIS WAY NOT EXPECTING ANY HELP... SO I'M RELIEVED...
...IF YOU... NO MATTER WHAT... IF YOU NEED TO HAVE STRENGTH... I'LL ALWAYS LEND YOU A HAND...

!!?
NOW THEN... IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO GO... EVERY-ONE IS DRUNK RIGHT NOW... I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF DIFFICULTIES I'LL FACE...

HEY, SATOKO, THIS...!!
I JUST HURT MYSELF A BIT WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY FELL DOWN THE STAIRS.
HAHH
THAT MAN.....
THA--
THAT'S A LIE ...!!
YOU'RE WRONG
I CAN SEE IT ...
ALL OVER YOUR BODY

PLEASE BEAR WITH IT JUST FOR NOW!! MAEBARA-SAN!
222O...
I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL! I UNDER-STAND SO...
BEAR WITH IT ...?
HOW SHO-ULD I BEAR WITH IT?!
WHEN I CAN SEE SA-TO-KO'S BODY AND MIND HURT BE-FORE MY EYES?!
AM I SO USE-LESS THAT I CAN'T EVEN YELL ?!

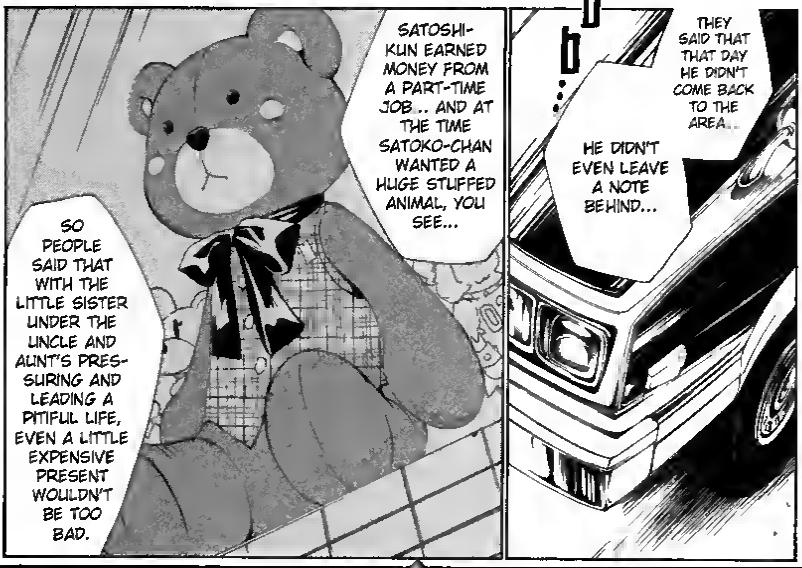
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, KEIICHI-SAN.
JUST NOW I SAW MY REAL BIG BROTHER IN KEIICHI-SAN.
...EVEN THOUGH MY REAL BIG BROTHER'S NOT HERE RIGHT NOW...
KEIICHI-SAN BROUGHT MY BROTHER HERE.
EH?
... I...
... WON'T RUN AWAY...
.....

...I ABSO-LUTELY... WON'T RUN AWAY... ...UNLIKE SATOSHI... I WON'T RUN AWAY AND ABANDON YOU!!!
I WON'T... ABANDON YOU!!!

...
GOODBYE
...NII-NII.
.....
I'M FINE... BECAUSE OF NII-NII... NOW... I... WAS GIVEN ...LOTS AND LOTS OF STRENGTH ...
SO UNTIL TOMORROW... I'LL DO MY BEST...

SATOKOO! HURRY UP! BRING US OUR DRINKS NOW!
WELL... NII-NII, PLEASE HURRY UP AND GO. I'M FINE...
BUT ...
LET'S GO, MAE-BARA-SAN. WE'D CAUSE TROUBLE FOR SATO-KO-CHAN.
.....
SATOKO...

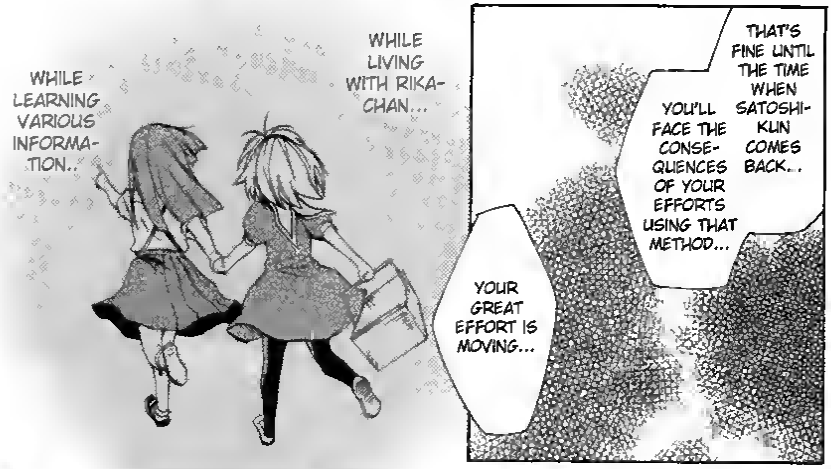
SATOSHI
...
WHY ISN'T SATOSHI HERE AT A SERIOUS TIME AS THIS ...?!!
... THEY SAY IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THE CURSE, BUT.. THEY DIDN'T SAY HE LEFT THE HOUSE ...


THEY SAID THAT THAT DAY HE DIDN'T COME BACK TO THE AREA...
HE DIDN'T EVEN LEAVE A NOTE BEHIND...
SATOSHI-KUN EARNED MONEY FROM A PART-TIME JOB... AND AT THE TIME SATOKO-CHAN WANTED A HUGE STUFFED ANIMAL, YOU SEE...
SO PEOPLE SAID THAT WITH THE LITTLE SISTER UNDER THE UNCLE AND AUNT'S PRESSURING AND LEADING A PITIFUL LIFE, EVEN A LITTLE EXPENSIVE PRESENT WOULDN'T BE TOO BAD.

HE DIDN'T USE IT FOR THE PRESENT...
AFTER HAVING SAVED THAT MONEY...

HE USED THAT MONEY FOR HIMSELF TO LEAVE THE HOUSE!?... BUT
WHY DID HE HAVE TO LEAVE SATOKO BEHIND ?!!!
.....
PLEASE UNDER-STAND...
BEFORE LONG EVEN SATOKO-CHAN REAL-IZED HER BROTHER DIDN'T ABANDON HER.
BUT SATOKO-CHAN WAS A VERY STRONG-WILLED PERSON
OF COURSE HER CLOSE FRIENDS WERE THERE FOR HER ...
AND THEY WERE ABLE TO BRING BACK THAT SMILE OF HERS.
SATOSHI-KUN WILL DEFINITELY COME BACK.
UNTIL THEN I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT ME NOT AS LUGGAGE.

SATOKO ISN'T SOMEHOW LUGGAGE!!
SOMEHOW I'LL... ALWAYS HAVE THE VITALITY... TO DO THE USUAL THINGS!!
I'LL SHOW THEM THAT I'M BETTER!!


THAT'S FINE UNTIL THE TIME WHEN SATOSHI-KUN COMES BACK..
YOU'LL FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR EFFORTS USING THAT METHOD...
YOUR GREAT EFFORT IS MOVING...
WHILE LIVING WITH RIKA-CHAN...
WHILE LEARNING VARIOUS INFORMATION..

..WHEN DID SATOSHI RUN AWAY..?
ON THE NIGHT OF LAST YEAR'S WATANAGASHI FESTIVAL— A FEW DAYS AFTER THEIR AUNT WAS KILLED...
ON THE DAY OF... SATOKO-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY.

SATOKO
FROM NOW ON I'LL BEGIN TO ONLY LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOU AS YOUR BROTHER
WITH A WONDERFUL PRESENT
SHOULD MY HEART EXPAND AND WAIT
Satoshi you
God-damned idiot...!!!
...THE CHILD WELFARE LAW... SEEM TO STATE THAT TO ENSURE A CHILD'S SAFETY THEY'LL TAKE EMERGENCY MEASURES IN ORDER TO SEPARATE THE PARENT AND CHILD.
.....

!! THEN COULDN'T WE RESCUE SATOKO FROM HER UNCLE'S INFLU-ENCE!?
...IF THAT'S WHAT... SATOKO SAYS SHE DESIRES.
HUH? BUT...
... SATOKO-CHAN IS... ENDURING THE ABUSE ...
PERHAPS THIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A "TEST".
"I RELIED ON NII-NII TOO MUCH AND BECAUSE OF THAT HE HATED ME."
PERHAPS THAT PUT HER INTO A TRAU-MATIC STATE.
SO SHE WANTS TO RELY ON HER OWN STRENGTH AND ON NO ONE ELSE...
THAT'S WHAT I'VE CONSID-ERED

...DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE REPORT THAT WAS MADE TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES LAST YEAR?
...YES.
SATOKO... WOULDN'T SAY A SINGLE... WORD OF PAIN...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY...
IT... SEEMED LIKE SATOKO-CHAN MADE THAT REPORT HERSELF.
EH...?
BECAUSE OF THAT THE UNNECESSARY ABUSE ESCALATED...
SATOSHI'S BURDEN GREW MORE AND MORE BURDENSOME
THAT AGAIN
MADE HER BELIEVE THAT IT WAS HER FAULT...
..SO SATOKO-CHAN HATES MAKING REPORTS
—ASSUMING THAT EVEN IF SHE REMAINED SILENT ABOUT MAKING REPORTS SHE NEVER ADMITTED THE TRUTH OF THE ABUSE
ALSO SHE'D BE SENT TO AN ORPHANAGE FOR PROTECTION... IN OTHER WORDS SHE'D HAVE TO MOVE AWAY.
SO SHE REALLY DOESN'T WISH FOR PROTECTION.
!! WHY'S THAT?!!

BECAUSE WAITING FOR SATOSHI-KUN'S RETURN TO THIS VILLAGE IS SATOKO-CHAN'S "REASON TO LIVE".
...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
EH...?
PLEASE THINK ABOUT SATOKO-CHAN'S VALUES.
I FOUND OUT WHAT WAS HER REASON TO LIVE...
SHE BECAME SIMILAR TO AN INVALID TOSSED AWAY BY HER BROTHER, BUT...

I'LL FINALLY BELIEVE THAT SATOKO'S HAPPY.

...IF I FEEL LIKE SATOKO-CHAN'S IN GREAT DANGER
NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS SAY I'LL MAKE THEM LISTEN TO MY REPORT.
EVEN IF THAT MAY RESULT IN SATOKO HOLDING A GRUDGE AGAINST ME...

...MAE-BARA-SAN...

I'm...
Useless...
...
BESIDES JUST MY HOUSE YOU LIVE IN A FINE ONE YOURSELF, RIGHT?
THERE'S AN OPEN ROOM AT MY HOUSE
BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
PERSUADE MY PARENTS?
HOW?
WHAT WILL I SAY? THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D AGREE...
I'LL SECRETLY HIDE HER FROM MY PARENTS?
WHERE...
WOULD SHE GET MONEY?
WOULD SHE GET MEALS?
WOULD SHE LIVE?
SHIT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?!
SHIT...!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

12
3
9
6
HOW LONG... DID I SLEEP FOR...?
NO ONE'S IN THE HOUSE...
DID THEY LEAVE THINKING I WAS ALREADY AT SCHOOL...?
THERE ARE NO SOLUTIONS COMING TO MIND... SOMEHOW... I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING TO SCHOOL...
BUT... I WANT TO KNOW THAT SATOKO'S SAFE...

HEY, COULD YOU...
BE... MAEBARA-KUN?
.... ..YEAH.
YOU'RE THAT CAMERA MAN ...
YEAH I'M TOMI-TAKE JIROU, GLAD TO KNOW THAT YOU REMEM-BER ME!
BE-SIDES THAT SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN SCHOOL AT THIS TIME? AREN'T YOU REALLY LATE? AHAHA.
YEAH .. WELL ..
YOU'RE BUGGING ME
IF YOU'RE NOT IN A BIG RUSH... COULD YOU POSSIBLY SHOW ME TO THE FURUDE SHINTO SHRINE?
I LEFT MY MAP BEHIND AT THE HOTEL.

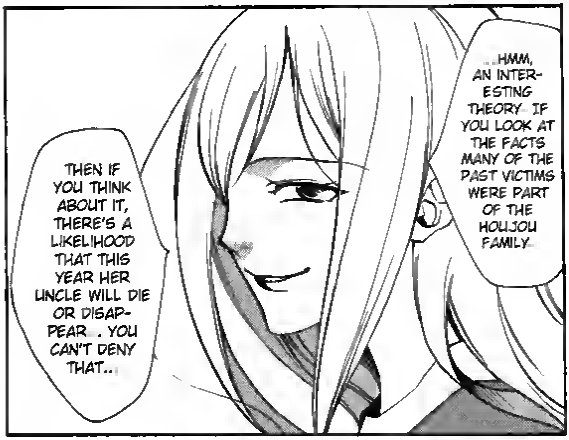
...I DON'T MIND.
I SUPPOSE IF THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO I WILL GUIDE YOU THERE... I'M NOT IN A BIG RUSH...
REALLY? YOU'VE SAVED ME!
JIROU-SAN YOU'RE LATE.
AH, SORRY, SORRY, TAKANO-SAN!
!

AH... SO MAEBARA-KUN LED JIROU-SAN HERE?
ARE YOU TAKING A BREAK FROM SCHOOL TODAY?
AH? HAVE YOU TWO MET BEFORE?
...SHE'S ... AIDED ME AT THE HOSPITAL IN THE PAST...
A CAMERA CASE ...?
ARE YOU TWO... A CAMERA COMPANIONS? AH... AND DID YOU HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT?
WE'RE FAR FROM THAT!
I'M A NOVICE, JIROU-SAN ONLY GIVES ME ADVICE ON HOW TO GENTLY HANDLE IT.. RIGHT?
N... NHAHAHA! I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! YOU'VE UNDER-STOOD IT QUICKLY.
IT TOOK ME SOME GUIDANCE TO BECOME A FREELANCE PHOTOGRA-PHER!

YEAH.. THE FESTIVAL OF HINAMIZAWA TO GIVE THANKS TO ITS GUARDIAN, OYASHIRO-SAMA.. I BELIEVE.
WATANAGASHI'S JUST COMING AROUND THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW. I WONDER HOW MANY PICTURES WE SHOULD TAKE THIS YEAR..
A CURSE..
EH... AH...
FUFU... I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN THIS YEAR... HUH?
MY MY, TAKANO-SAN...
UNDER-TAKE THE TASK...?
WILL OYA-SHIRO-SAMA CURSE THE ENEMY OF THE VILLAGE.. OR.. ASSUMING THAT IT IS THIS YEAR.. WHO WILL BE THE ONE TO...

AH! I CAME HERE TO VISIT THE SHRINE!!
SO IT COULDN'T BE ME!
IS THAT SO?
DID YOU HEAR THAT IN RECENT YEARS OYASHIRO-SAMA TARGETS LONE FOREIGNERS IN PARTICULAR?
ALTHOUGH HE JUST RECENTLY MOVED IN... MAEBARA-KUN IS ALREADY A CITIZEN RESIDING IN HINAMI-ZAWA, BUT...
JIROU-SAN IS JUST AN OUTSIDER.
NOW THEN I WONDER IF YOU'LL BE OVER-LOOKED...?
HOW... HOW CRUEL!
AHAHAHA

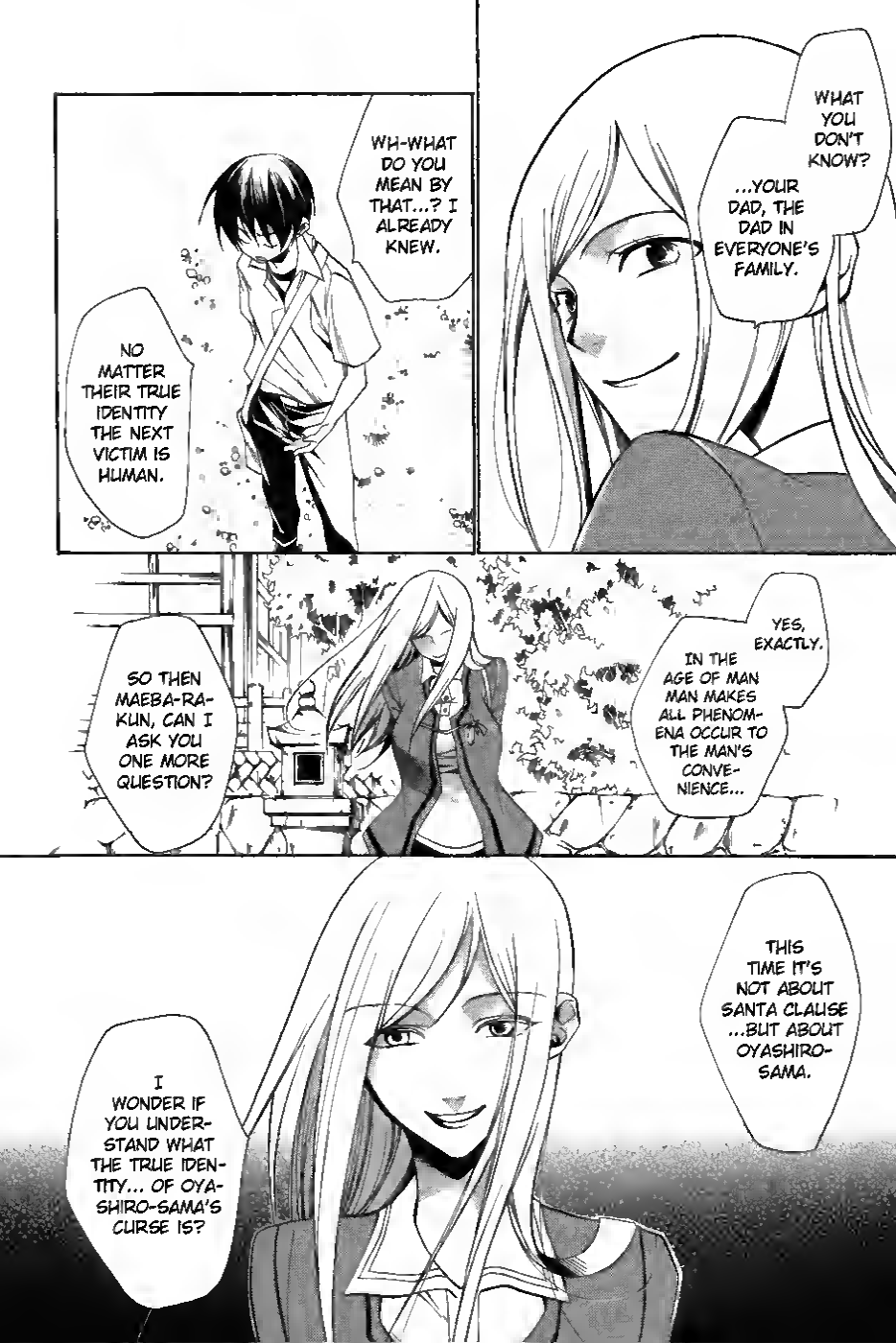
...NAH... SATOKO'S PARENTS AND AUNT WERE KILLED BY THE CURSE...
SO I WONDERED IF THE NEXT VICTIM WOULD BE HER UNCLE.
...DID YOU... DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HOW THEY SAY THAT HOUJOU SATOKO'S UNCLE CAME BACK?
...EH?

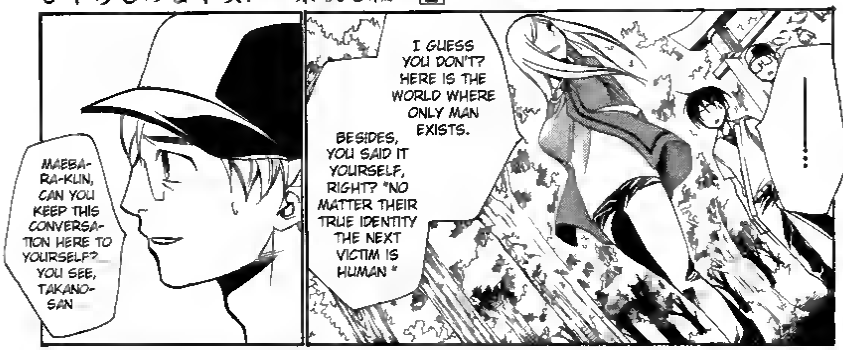

...HMM, AN INTERESTING THEORY. IF YOU LOOK AT THE FACTS MANY OF THE PAST VICTIMS WERE PART OF THE HOUJOU FAMILY.
THEN IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THERE'S A LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS YEAR HER UNCLE WILL DIE OR DISAPPEAR... YOU CAN'T DENY THAT...

U FU FU FU
I'M SORRY, BUT OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE IS MY LIFE-WORK..
GEEZ... WHY DON'T YOU STOP SMILING SO MUCH ABOUT DEATH?

LAST YEAR SATOKO'S AUNT DIED A VIOLENT DEATH... AND HE BECAME FRIGHTENED AND ESCAPED FROM THE VILLAGE?
...I'M SURE OYASHIRO-SAMA WOULDN'T FORGIVE THOSE THAT RUN AWAY AND ABANDON THE VILLAGE... RIGHT?

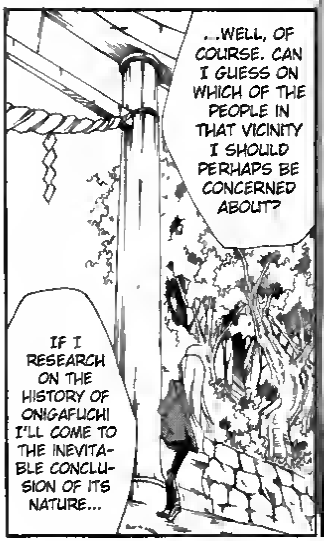
...TAKANO-SAN... YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE CURSE...
HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON THAT?
HOW DID YOU COME TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF SATOKO'S UNCLE BEING CURSED?
AH... WHAT?
WELL IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S INEVITABLE THAT HER UNCLE WILL BE KILLED, RIGHT...?
DO YOU KNOW SANTA CLAUSE'S TRUE IDENTITY?
MAEBARA-KUN...
NO... NOT THAT...
HUH?


WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...? I ALREADY KNEW.
NO MATTER THEIR TRUE IDENTITY THE NEXT VICTIM IS HUMAN.
WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW?
...YOUR DAD, THE DAD IN EVERYONE'S FAMILY.
SO THEN MAEBA-RA-KUN, CAN I ASK YOU ONE MORE QUESTION?
YES, EXACTLY.
IN THE AGE OF MAN MAN MAKES ALL PHENOM-ENA OCCUR TO THE MAN'S CONVE-NIENCE...
THIS TIME IT'S NOT ABOUT SANTA CLAUSE ...BUT ABOUT OYASHIRO-SAMA.
I WONDER IF YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT THE TRUE IDEN-TITY... OF OYA-SHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE IS?


MAEBA-RA-KUN, CAN YOU KEEP THIS CONVERSA-TION HERE TO YOURSELF? YOU SEE, TAKANO-SAN
I GUESS YOU DON'T? HERE IS THE WORLD WHERE ONLY MAN EXISTS.
BESIDES, YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, RIGHT? "NO MATTER THEIR TRUE IDENTITY THE NEXT VICTIM IS HUMAN."
!!

HINAMI-ZAWA'S CITI-ZENS QUESTION WHAT THEY SEE AS SOMETHING OF A ARTIFICIAL MURDER DONE BASED ON A CEREMONY.
SHE RETURNS EVERY TIME THERE'S A MYSTERIOUS DEATH CAUSED BY OYASHIRO-SAMA...

NO CRIMINAL IN PARTICU-LAR WOULD BE TRULY INTERESTED IN THIS, WOULD THEY?
IT'S MY LIFE-WORK STUDYING THIS BECAUSE OF THE FOLKLORE-LIKE POINT OF VIEW FOR ARRIVING CREEDS AND CULTURE IDEOL-OGIES.
DON'T MISUN-DER-STAND.
--HUH?


...WELL, OF COURSE. CAN I GUESS ON WHICH OF THE PEOPLE IN THAT VICINITY I SHOULD PERHAPS BE CONCERNED ABOUT?
IF I RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY OF ONIGAFUCHI I'LL COME TO THE INEVITABLE CONCLUSION OF ITS NATURE...

I

What will I do? Know that and

YOU KNOW THAT... BUT WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO? ...YOU KNOW YOU MIGHT FALL INTO A DANGEROUS SITUATION...?
YOU MIGHT BE... THE ONE CURSED FOR THE FIFTH YEAR...
YOU ASSUME IMPORTANCE BY MEANS OF SEEMINGLY GREAT MERIT, BUT...
HOW COULD I NOT UNDERSTAND YOU AT ALL, TAKANO-SAN...?
AH... YOU SAID IT...
THOUGH YOU'RE A BOY YOU CAN BE PROVOCATIVE CAN'T YOU...? WHAT A SURPRISING MATURITY...
I DON'T HATE IT... THAT TYPE...
--FINE, THEN.
IT'S OKAY IF I TELL YOU.
...BUT BEFORE THAT PROMISE ME THREE THINGS...

Listen to this.

What are you doing...?

DON'T REGRET IT. DON'T REVEAL IT. WHAT I TOLD YOU.
...
...I.....I PROMISE.
NEVER SAY A WORD OF IT.

NFU-FU!! THERE IT IS, RON.
CHUN-DORA 3, 15000.
HOW THE... HOW DO YOU GET THREE DORAS?
IDIOT! YOU KEPT PUTTING IN MORE FOR KAN-DORA WHEN OOISHI WAS TENPEI-ING! YOU WERE ASKING FOR IT!
MAMIYA RINA. REAL NAME IS RITSUKO.
SHE WORKED AT A CLUB CALLED BLUE MERMAID IN SHISHIBONE'S FLOWER ROAD
MY, MY, THAT'S A BAD STORE AIN'T IT. THAT'S THE ONE THAT'S OWNED BY A LIEUTENANT OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY, ISN'T IT?
...SONO-ZAKI... DAMN! THAT FALLS UNDER TYPE-S. UGH.
...THIS IS GOING TO BE A ROUGH CASE.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?.. AH, YOU MEAN THE CASE INVOLV-ING THE MUTI-LATED CORPSE IN THE RIVER GUTTER?
BY THE WAY, OOISHI, HOW'S IT GOING? ANY BREAK-THROUGH?

ACCORDING TO RUMORS SHE GOT INTO TROUBLE FOR POKING HER HAND INTO GOVERNMENT MONEY.
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SOMETHING THAT COULD BE TAKEN AS A JOKE.
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE WAS A MAN BEHIND HER POKING HER HAND INTO THE MONEY.
NFUFU! HE'S PROBABLY DEAD ALREADY! WE JUST HAVEN'T FOUND HIS CORPSE YET.
NO IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S STILL ALIVE.
ON TOP OF THAT... HE'S THAT HOUJOU TEPPEI GUY.
...HOU-JOU...? AH, THAT HUSBAND WHOSE WIFE WAS BEAT TO DEATH IN LAST YEAR'S CASE...
...THIS START'S TO SMELL MORE AND MORE OF TYPE-S.
...HE'S STILL ALIVE, HUH?
FOR WHOM WILL THE CURSED BLACK CURTAIN FALL...?
THEN FROM HERE ON OUT THIS IS A DEATH... INSECTS EXTERMINATE INSECTS... I THINK IT TRULY IS A WONDERFUL FACULTY OF SELF-CLEANSING.

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Higurashi no Naku Koro ni
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CHAPTER 8

HE TOLD ME THAT IT STINKS.

HE TOLD ME THAT THE MEAL STINKS.

HE TOLD ME THAT IT STINKS BECAUSE I STINK.

HE TOLD ME THAT I STINK BECAUSE I DON'T TAKE A BATH.

HE TOLD ME THAT I STINK AND SHOULD BATHE THREE TIMES EVERY DAY.

HE TOLD ME THAT I MUST WASH MYSELF THOROUGHLY EVERY TIME.

CHAPTER 8

B
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3

DESPITE THE HEAT AND HIGH HUMIDITY, I FINALLY CAME TO SCHOOL, AND THIS IS WHAT I HEARD.
KEI-CHAN!! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHEN EVEN KEIICHI DIDN'T COME, EVERYONE WAS WORRIED!
"SATOKO HAS CAUGHT A COLD AND WILL STAY AT HOME", AS USUAL, THIS KIND OF NONSENSE.
MAEBARA, PRESIDENT. WHEN YOU FINISH YOUR LUNCH COME TO THE STAFF ROOM.
.....
POWERLESSNESS? NO, IT'S DEFINITELY NOT POWERLESSNESS.

YESTERDAY... I SAW IT. SATOKO'S HOUSE AND HER UNCLE.
THE UNCLE ABUSES HER EVEN MORE THAN I COULD IMAGINE.
SATOKO'S BODY WAS COVERED WITH BRUISES.
I THINK THAT I MUST SAVE SATOKO REGARDLESS OF HER OWN WISHES. BUT I THINK THE TIME TO DO IT HASN'T COME YET.
I CAN'T TELL IT TO ANYONE EXCEPT YOU. EVEN IF IT IS AGAINST SATOKO'S WILL...
IF WE SEND A NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS, THEY MIGHT PROTECT SATOKO.
IT'S A HARD PROBLEM.. WE CAN ASK THE TEACHER TO PROMISE US THAT SHE WILL DO IT.
I THINK.
KEIICHI'S DECISION TO HAVE A TALK ABOUT IT IS CORRECT.
コホン
OKAY...

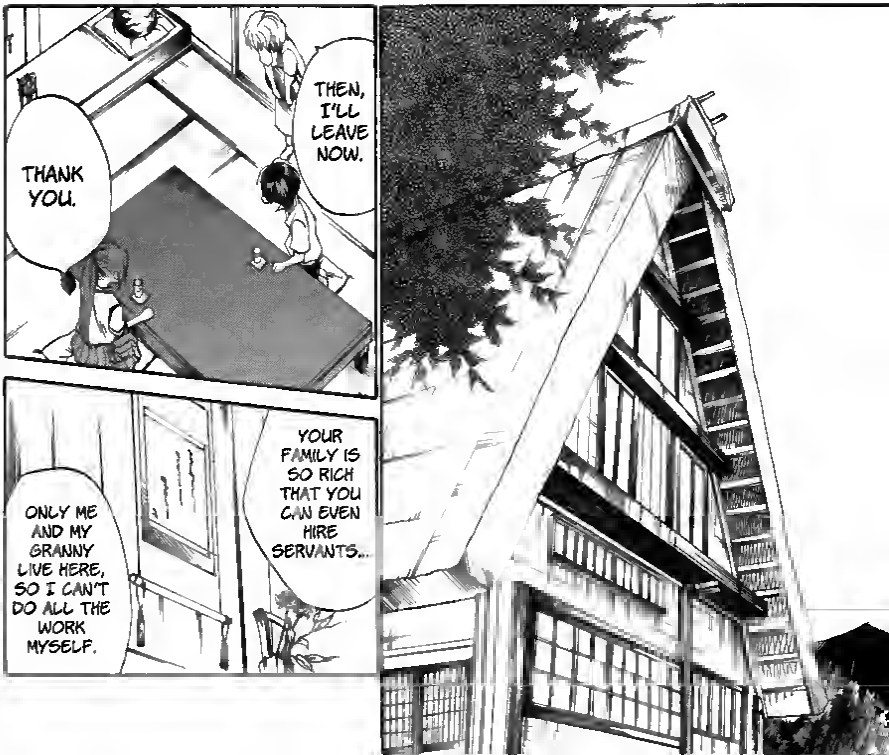
ARE THOSE RUMORS ABOUT HOUJOU BEING ILL-TREATED... TRUE?
YES, THEY ARE YESTERDAY, I SAW EVERYTHING WITH MY OWN EYES.
I TRUST YOU. THE HEADMASTER AND I WILL SEND A REPORT TO THE PREFECTURAL CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER.
I WILL PROBABLY SOMEHOW FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS.
YOU TWO, RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM.
YES.
HELLO, I'M MISS CHIE FROM THE HINAMIZAWA BRANCH SCHOOL. I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO THE PRINCIPAL.
KEI-CHAN, LET'S GO.
"SOMEHOW"? "PROBABLY"?

STOP THIS NONSENSE! IT'S NOT "SOMEHOW" OR "PROBABLY"!
KEI-CHAN!
YES, MY STUDENTS TOLD ME THAT THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS
IT MUST BE "NO MATTER WHAT"!
IT'S NOT JUST "SERIOUS"! YOU MUST DO SOMETHING IMMEDI-ATELY!
IF YOU JUST CONTINUE OBSERVING THE STATE OF AF-FAIRS, IT'LL SOON BE TOO LATE!
THE DIE OF DESTINY
HAS BEEN CAST.

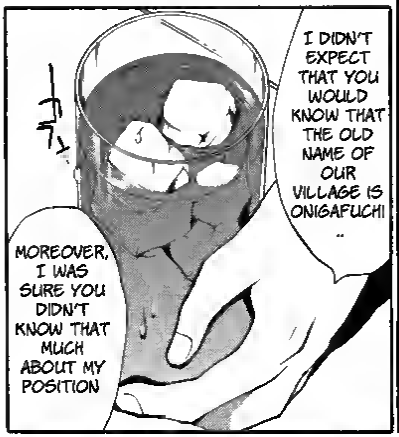
HOWEVER, I CAN'T RELAX.
I MUSTN'T THINK THAT THE ONLY THING I CAN DO NOW IS PRAY.

I HAVE TO ASK FOR A CERTAIN FAVOR.

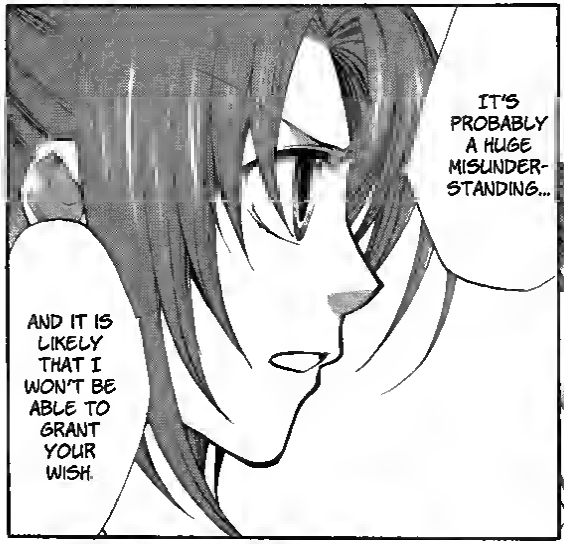
YEAH.
SURE.


THEN, I'LL LEAVE NOW.
THANK YOU.
YOUR FAMILY IS SO RICH THAT YOU CAN EVEN HIRE SERVANTS...
ONLY ME AND MY GRANNY LIVE HERE, SO I CAN'T DO ALL THE WORK MYSELF.

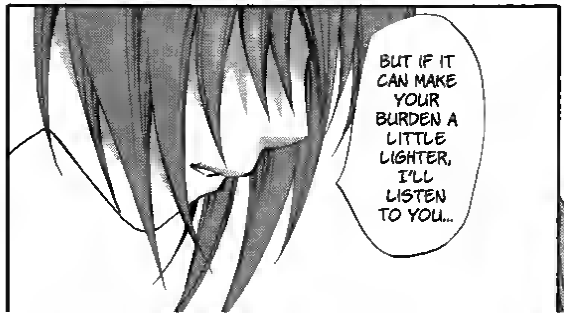
IT'S A SUDDEN REQUEST, SO YOU MIGHT BE TAKEN ABACK, BUT PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, MION..
..
SO, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
DON'T REFUSE ME IMMEDIATELY, PLEASE.
I WON'T BE ANGRY IF YOU TURN DOWN MY PROPOSAL, BUT I WANT YOU TO LISTEN UP TO THE END.
WHAT?
!!!
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU AS SONOZAKI MION, THE HEIR AND THE FUTURE HEAD OF ONE OF THE THREE HOUSES OF ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE.

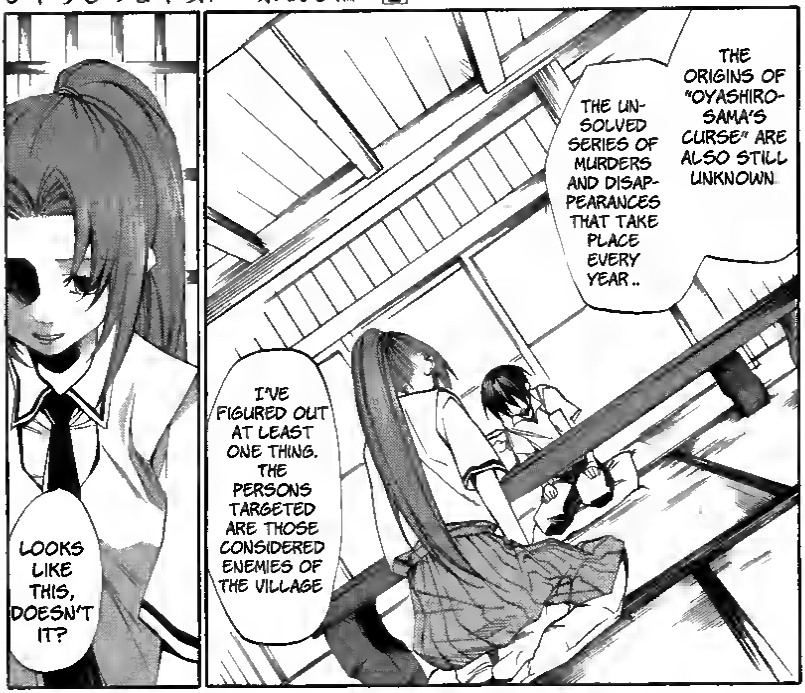

I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT YOU WOULD KNOW THAT THE OLD NAME OF OUR VILLAGE IS ONIGAFUCHI ..
MOREOVER, I WAS SURE YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT MY POSITION

WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS?
....


IT'S PROBABLY A HUGE MISUNDER-STANDING...
AND IT IS LIKELY THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO GRANT YOUR WISH.

MAYBE I JUST HAVE A WRONG IMPRESSION... NEVERTHE-LESS, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL STILL ASK YOU.
AND IF I'M RIGHT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT QUESTION YOU WANT TO ASK, BUT I WANT TO WARN YOU BEFORE-HAND.


BUT IF IT CAN MAKE YOUR BURDEN A LITTLE LIGHTER, I'LL LISTEN TO YOU...


LOOKS LIKE THIS, DOESN'T IT?
I'VE FIGURED OUT AT LEAST ONE THING. THE PERSONS TARGETED ARE THOSE CONSIDERED ENEMIES OF THE VILLAGE
THE UNSOLVED SERIES OF MURDERS AND DISAPPEARANCES THAT TAKE PLACE EVERY YEAR..
THE ORIGINS OF "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE" ARE ALSO STILL UNKNOWN.
WATANAGASHI IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, RIGHT?
IS IT ALREADY DECIDED WHO'LL BE THE VICTIM OF THE CURSE THIS YEAR?
...

I'M SORRY.. YOU PROMISED TO LISTEN TO ME UNTIL THE END, BUT I'M ASKING WEIRD QUESTIONS...
...
COULD YOU CHANGE THE TARGET TO SATOKO'S UNCLE, IF HE HASN'T ALREADY BEEN CHOSEN?
LOOK, LAST YEAR IT WAS SATOKO'S AUNT, WASN'T IT!? IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF HE BECAME THE NEXT TARGET!
A-HA-HA-HA-HA. YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S LOGICAL.
INDEED, IF HE DIES THIS YEAR, EVERYBODY WILL CONSENT.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT. "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE"...

"THE MYSTERIOUS SERIAL MURDERS IN HINAMIZAWA", ALSO KNOWN AS "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE" IS CARRIED OUT BY THE THREE HOUSES LED BY SONOZAKI HOUSE, AND COVERED UP BY THE WHOLE VILLAGE
THIS KIND OF STORY, RIGHT?
!
IT'S IRRELEVANT! I DON'T CARE WHETHER YOU ARE INVOLVED IN THIS OR NOT!
JUST THAT, IF YOU CAN PASS IT TO SOMEBODY WHO HAS ANY INFLUENCE ON THE FINAL DECISION... I WANT SATOKO'S UNCLE TO BE CHOSEN!
YOU'RE SO CRUEL, KEI-CHAN... IF IT'S TRUE, THEN...
THEN I'M ONE OF THE CULPRITS YOU'RE OPENLY CALLING ME A MURDERER!
CRUEL...
I DIDN'T SAY IT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHETHER YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE SERIAL MURDERS! YOU'RE STILL MY BEST FRIEND, EVERYTHING ELSE IS IRRELEVANT!
IF POLICE PURSUES YOU, I'LL OFFER MY HELP TO YOU, I'LL MAKE UP AN ALIBI FOR YOU! THAT'S BECAUSE WE ARE FRIENDS!

KEI-CHAN, IT'S DINNER-TIME SOON, AND I HAVE TO START PREPARING FOR IT. LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
YOU ARE EAGER TO BECOME AN ACCOMPLICE? KEI-CHAN, YOU'RE DARING.
DON'T CHANGE THE TOPIC! I'M SERIOUS..
...
I UNDERSTAND THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FEELINGS.
IF I REALLY COULD PULL THE STRINGS BEHIND THE CHOICE OF VICTIMS EVERY YEAR.
I'D GRANT YOUR REQUEST.
BUT YOU'RE MISTAKEN.
YES, VARIOUS BAD RUMORS ABOUT THE SONOZAKI HOUSE CONTROLLING HINAMIZAWA MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT...
WE AREN'T RELATED TO THOSE EVENTS AT ALL.
MION!

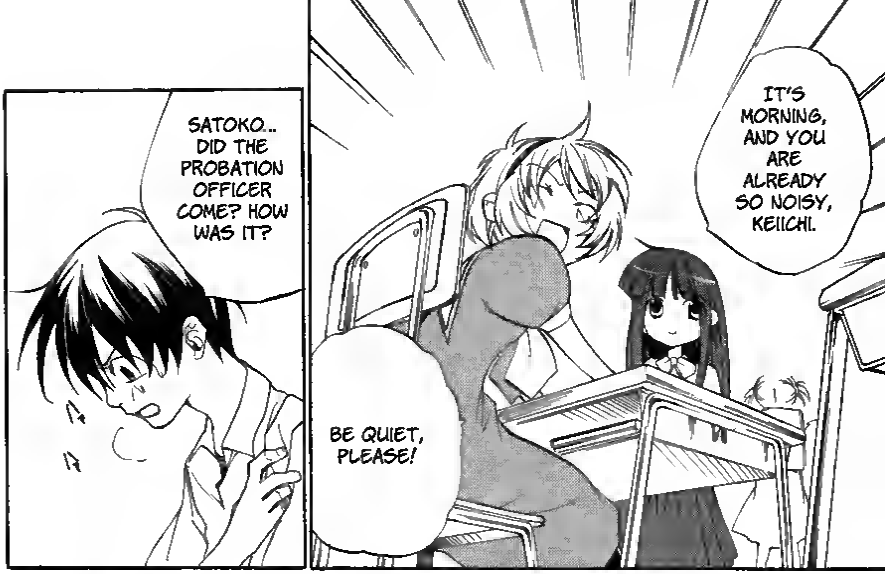
KEI-CHAN, YOU CAN DREAM AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
IF I AGREED NOW, I'D BE ABLE TO TAKE THE BURDEN OFF YOU, HOWEVER .
DON'T UPSET ME IMMEDIATELY .
YOU COULD AT LEAST NOD IN AGREEMENT FOR THE TIME BEING ..
NO MATTER HOW RUTHLESS IT MAY SOUND TO YOU, BUT SATOKO'S UNCLE WILL PROBABLY SURVIVE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, AND NEXT WEEK, AND THE WEEK AFTER THAT.
BE PREPARED FOR THIS...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR QUESTIONS LIKE "WHY DIDN'T YOU KILL HIM" FROM YOU ON THE DAY AFTER WATANAGASHI.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY— FOR THIS STUPID CONVERSATION YOU CAN JUST FORGET THAT IT HAPPENED.
MION..

SEE YOU TOMORROW
BYE-BYE!
I'LL DO SO.
OKAY
I'VE DONE EVERYTHING I COULD
THE TEACHER HAS PROBABLY INFORMED THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER
MAYBE THE PROBLEM IS BEING DEALT WITH RIGHT NOW?
WH, T IS...
SATOKO DOING NOW?

KEIICHI! SATOKO'S SHOES ARE HERE!
AHAHA.

REALLY?
SATOKO!

SATOKO! WHERE IS SATOKO?
カラ


SATOKO... DID THE PROBATION OFFICER COME? HOW WAS IT?
IT'S MORNING, AND YOU ARE ALREADY SO NOISY, KEIICHI.
BE QUIET, PLEASE!

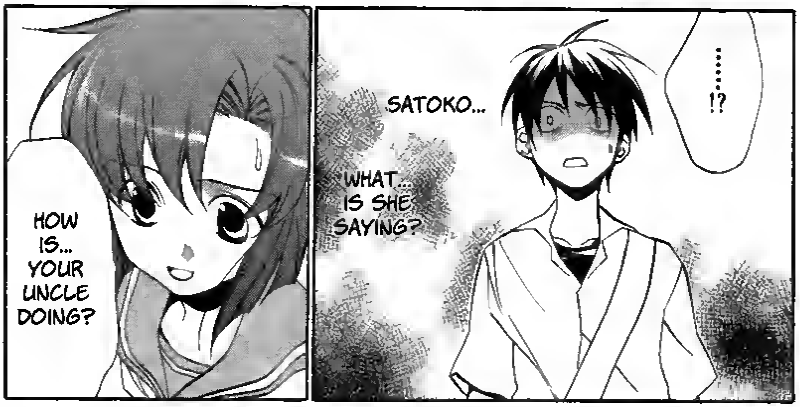
THE TEACHER DID WE WERE WORRIED BECAUSE YOU WERE ABSENT.

WHO CALLED THEM? WHAT THE HECK, IT WAS SUCH A FUSS!

TELL ME! WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

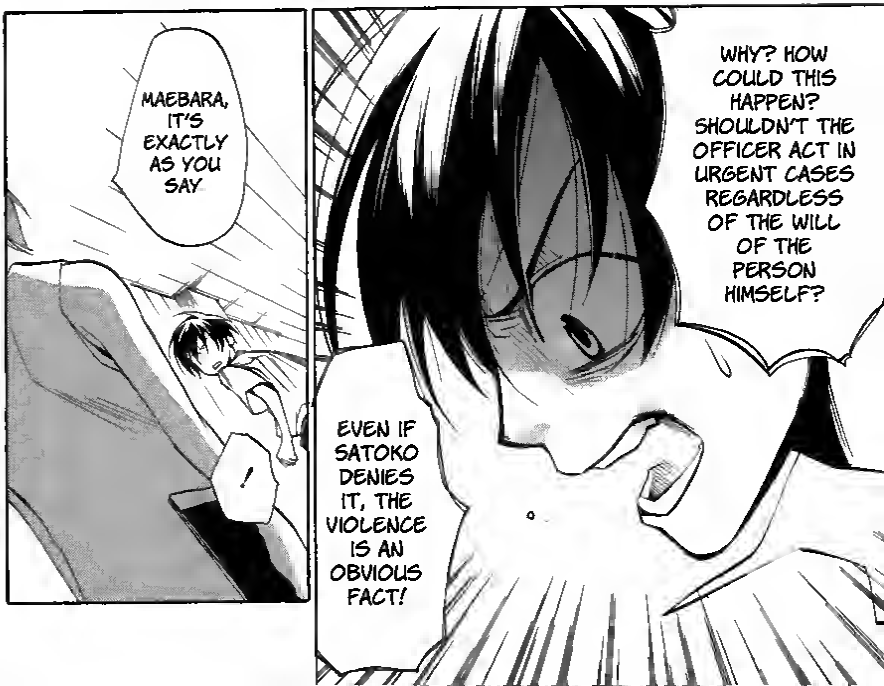
BUT I TOLD YOU THAT THERE AREN'T ANY PROBLEMS WITH ME.

I RECOVERED FROM THE COLD AND CAME TO SCHOOL, THAT'S IT.
NOTHING SPECIAL AT ALL, HO-HO-HO!


HOW IS... YOUR UNCLE DOING?
SATOKO...
WHAT... IS SHE SAYING?
.....!?

KEIICHI, STOP...
SA...
AND BOTH APOLOGIZED.
AH, HE ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS A LITTLE MISUNDER-STANDING

SATOKO SAID THAT SHE HAD NO COMPLAINTS AND SENT THE OFFICER AWAY.
!!?
RIKA! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?!


MAEBARA, IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU SAY
!
WHY? HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN? SHOULDN'T THE OFFICER ACT IN URGENT CASES REGARDLESS OF THE WILL OF THE PERSON HIMSELF?
EVEN IF SATOKO DENIES IT, THE VIOLENCE IS AN OBVIOUS FACT!

THE OFFICER FROM THE CENTER HAS THE AUTHORITY TO PROTECT THE CHILD HIMSELF IN CASES OF EMERGENCY.
THEN WHY...
...DID HE CONSIDER SATOKO'S OPINION AND DIDN'T PROTECT HER?
THAT JUDGEMENT WAS THE RESULT OF MUCH CONSIDERATION BY THE CHIEF OF THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU WOULD DO SOMETHING YESTERDAY?! WHAT HAPPENED?
KEIICHI...
ACTUALLY, THIS REPORT ABOUT SATOKO BEING ABUSED...
...WAS THE THIRD ONE.

THIRD ONE?
THERE WAS ONE EVEN BEFORE THE REPORT TWO YEARS AGO?
RIKA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ACTUALLY, SATOKO'S FATHER WHO DIED AFTER FALLING FROM THE CLIFF...
...WASN'T HER REAL FATHER.
SATOKO'S MOTHER WAS DIVORCED.
SATOKO AND SATOSHI WERE HER CHILDREN FROM THE FIRST MARRIAGE.
.....?

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN...
AND THEN IT BEGAN HAPPENING, FIRST AS A JOKE, BUT GRADUALLY BECOMING MORE AND MORE SERIOUS
MEN WHO APPEARED NEAR HER MOTHER ONE AFTER ANOTHER.. AND THEN, A STEPFATHER
SATOKO COULDN'T ADAPT TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES..
THROWING FOOD, SHOPLIFTING, BREAKING WINDOWS...
SATOKO DECIDED TO CREATE SOME SLANDER AGAINST HER STEPFATHER.
SHE MADE UP A STORY ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CALLED THE EMERGENCY CENTER HERSELF.
AT THAT TIME I WASN'T IN HINAMIZAWA, SO I DIDN'T WITNESS IT MYSELF.
BUT YESTERDAY ON THE PHONE THEY TOLD ME THE FOLLOWING

IT WAS AN ACT OF SELF-DEFENCE AGAINST BEING TAKEN IN BY AN UNFAMILIAR MAN FROM THE OUTSIDE.
DON'T THINK OF SATOKO AS A PROBLEM CHILD
THAT'S HOW IT IS
AND THIS IS.. THE REASON OF THE CURRENT SITUATION?
THEY ARE TAKING SOME PRECAUTIONS BECAUSE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT SATOKO MAY HAVE STARTED ANOTHER FALSE ALARM?
YOU ARE KIDDING! THAT'S AN OLD STORY, IT HAS NO CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENT EVENTS! ONLY THE EVENTS THAT ARE HAPPENING NOW ARE ESSENTIAL!
SATOKO'S UNCLE ABUSES HER!
WHY IS THIS FACT IGNORED UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED LONG AGO?

PEOPLE FROM THE CENTER SAID THAT THEY ARE GOING TO VISIT TIME TO TIME IF SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS, THEY'LL COME TO RESCUE.
SATOKO ISN'T GOING TO GIVE UP YET. LET'S WATCH OVER HER A LITTLE LONGER...
KEIICHI...
BUT THAT WILL BE WHEN SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED.
IS EVERYTHING I DO...
JUST UNNECES-SARY MEDDLING?
WATCH OVER HER?
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST AS RIKA SAYS...
IF SATOKO CAN REALLY ENDURE IT NOW...

WELL THEN, IT'S LUNCH TIME!
A-HA-HA! ALL FIVE OF US HAVEN'T BEEN EATING LUNCH TOGETHER FOR A WHILE!
MI ☆
KEI-CHAN, PUT YOUR DESK HERE TOO!
WOW, MION'S LUNCH TODAY IS GORGEOUS AS USUAL!
IT'S JUST THE LEFTOVERS FROM YESTERDAY. DO YOU LIKE BOILED MEAT?
AH.. YES...
WHILE KEIICHI ISN'T LOOKING...

I'LL TAKE IT!
YOU'RE FULL OF OPENINGS. O-HO-HO! IT'S YUMMY!
SATOKO ...
WE HAVEN'T DONE THIS FOR A WHILE...
AFTER ALL, EVEN THOUGH WE DECIDED JUST TO WAIT AND SEE... MAYBE HER UNCLE WILL REALIZE THAT HE'S GONE TOO FAR AND REFLECT ON HIS ACTIONS.
FROM NOW ON, HER SITUATION CAN START IMPROVING... IF THE WAY HE TREATS HER BECOMES BETTER.
IT'D BE A GOOD END?

..MY ARM?
DID SHE STRIKE..
EH?

SATOKO?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
SATOKO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DO YOU HATE IT WHEN SOMEONE STROKES YOUR HEAD?

へへへへ

SATO...
KO...
ARE... ARE YOU OK?

キャアア
WAI
SATOKO, STOP IT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

AH.. I'M...
I'M... SORRY ...
NO..
I DON'T BLAME YOU. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY.

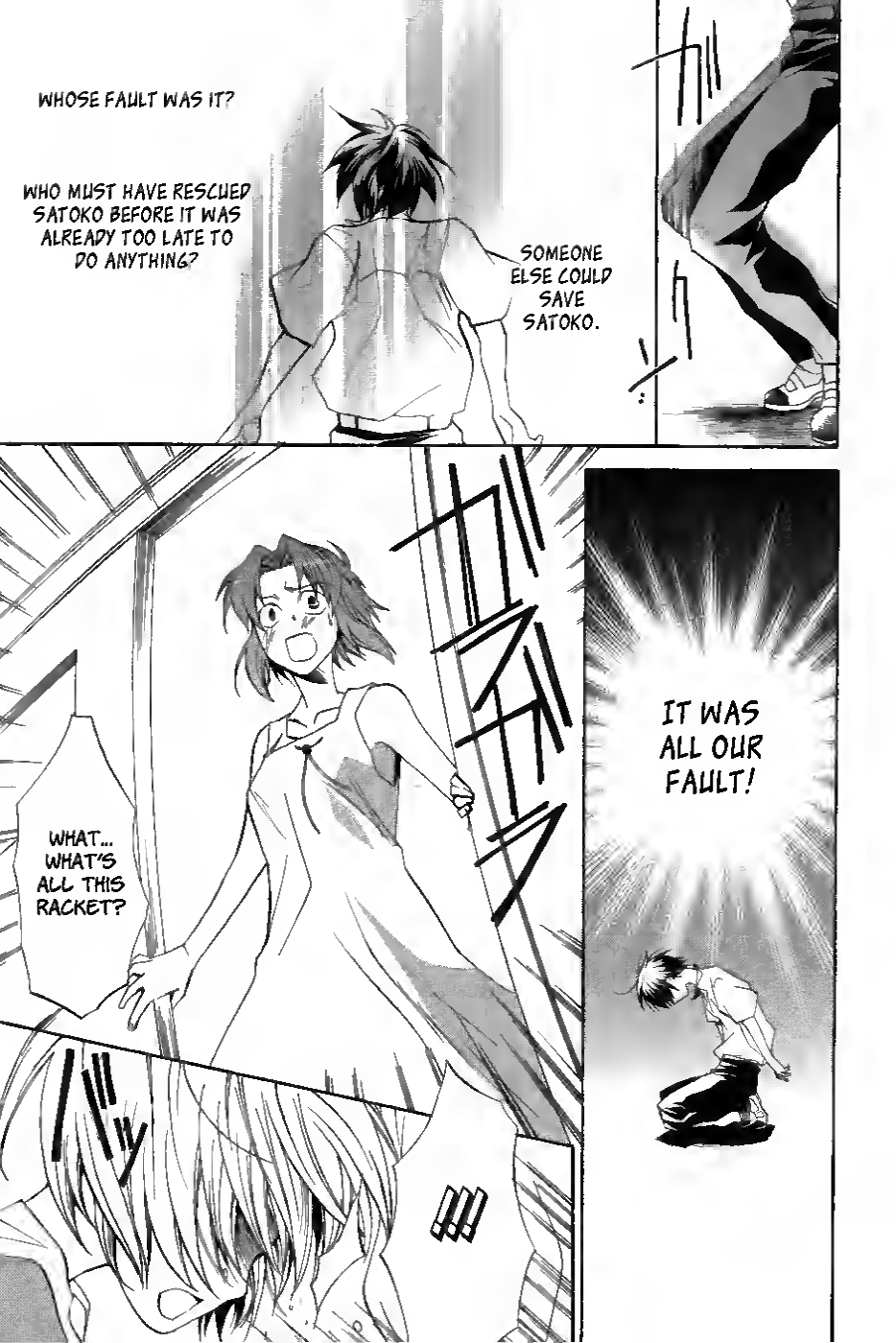
SATOKO, WHAT ARE YOU.
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
THAT'S WHY! THAT'S WHY! I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!
YOU'RE WRONG! YOU'RE WRONG! I CAN'T BEAR IT! LET ME GO!
SATOKO, IT'S ME, KEIICHI! DON'T YOU SEE?
I WON'T HARM YOU!

HELP ME! HELP ME! I'M AFRAID!
I TOLD YOU TO CALM DOWN! YOU SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
NONO-NONO-NONO-NONO-NONO-NO!! AAAAAA AAAAAA AAAAA!! NI-NIIII....
NI-NII!! NI-NII! HELP ME!! SAVE MEEEEEEEEEEE!
KEIICHI, CAN YOU STAY BACK?

CALM DOWN, SATOKO, THERE'S NOTHING SCARY HERE.
LOOK, IT'S SAFE HERE.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN? TELL ME.
NO-NO-NO-NO-NONO!
NI-NII!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT EVERYTHING WAS DEALT WITH YESTERDAY?
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT HER LIFE WILL RETURN TO NORMAL?
MION!!
.....

RENA, WHAT ARE YOU...
SORRY, KEIICHI, CAN YOU KEEP QUIET?
WHAT'S HEPPENING NOW? WHY?
DID SATOKO SAY SOMETHING TO YOU? SHE DID, RIGHT?
YOU ARE TOO NOISY!!
I TOLD YOU TO SHUT UP!

NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO, I CAN'T BEAR IT!
UH SATOKO...
FORGIVE US.
FORGIVE US FOR NOT BEING ABLE...
TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU...
"FORGIVE US FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU"
I HAVE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE...


WHOSE FAULT WAS IT?
WHO MUST HAVE RESCUED SATOKO BEFORE IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING?
SOMEONE ELSE COULD SAVE SATOKO.
IT WAS ALL OUR FAULT!
WHAT... WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET?

WE JUST HAD AN ARGUMENT ABOUT THE LUNCH AND WENT A LITTLE TOO FAR SEE?
HOHOHO-HOHOHO... WE JUST HAD A LITTLE QUARRELL WITH RENA.
HO-HO...
DECEIVING THE TEACHER BY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WHY ARE YOU DOING IT?
EVEN WHEN YOUR SOUL IS TORN APART...
THE WORLD ISN'T AS KIND AS YOU BELIEVE IT TO BE, YOUR DEAR BROTHER WON'T COME TO HE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT ANY MORE!
CRY, ASK FOR HELP, RUN AWAY, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO DO IT!
THAT'S WHY...
WHY ARE YOU DOING IT?
HO-HO-HO... I JUST PULLED A LITTLE PRANK...
AND EVERYONE TOOK IT TOO SERIOUSLY AND OVERREACTED!

WE ARE...
POWERLESS...
POWERLESS
YOU CAN CURSE YOU POWERLESSNESS AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
I AM NOT POWERLESS
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN AN EASY WAY TO SAVE SATOKO...

I JUST HAVE TO MURDER SATOKO'S UNCLE!

あの男を抹殺する

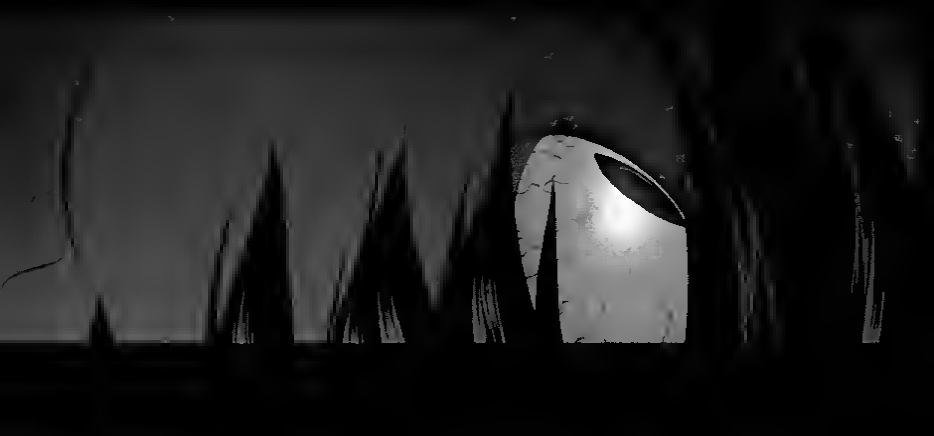
あの男を抹殺するためだけに回転させる殺害の方法は何でも

脳内の全ての

推定所要時間は25分

金属バット

DIE A HORRIBLE DEATH!
JUST AS YOU HAVE TORN APART SATOKO'S SOUL, I WILL TEAR APART YOUR HEART!
YOU WILL PAY FOR THAT BLOOD!
OOOOOOOOOOO
OOOOOOOOOOO
OOOOOOO!!



HIGURASHI NO NAKU
KORO NI
TATARIGOROSHI-HEN
TRANSLATION: LEOPARD
CLEANING: LEOPARD, ARGOLICS
TYPESET: LEOPARD
PROOFREAD: SUPREMEBULL
SLOWMANGA.SHIKIMA.NET

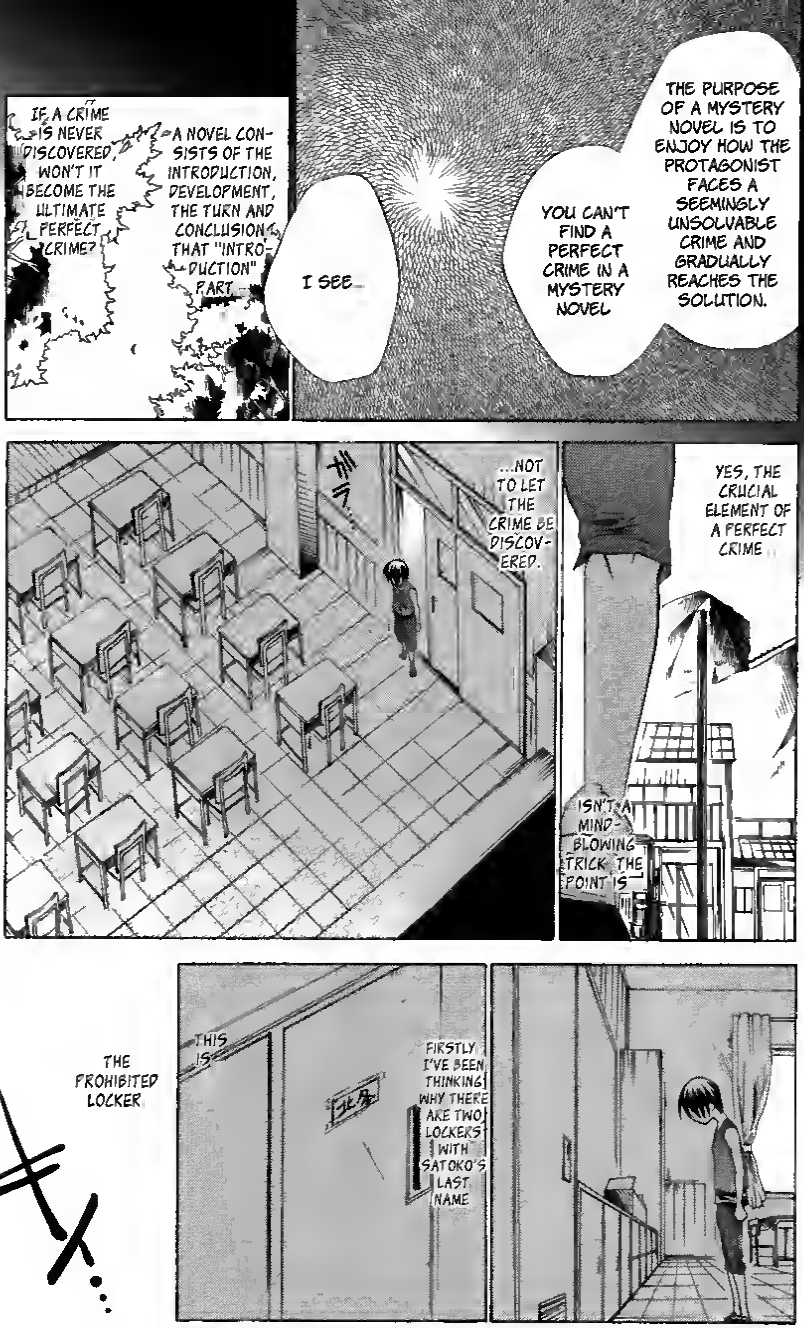
CHAPTER 9

...CHI!
KEIICHI!
...LOSE CONSIOUS-NESS?
KEI-CHAN!
DID I...

DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?
KEI-CHAN, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE HAD A NIGHTMARE
SHUT THAT SHRILL NOISY VOICE UP!
!!
ARE YOU.. MAEBARA KEIICHI?
KEIICHI?
RENA...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

KEI-CHAN, WE ARE GOING TO HELP PREPARE FOR THE WATANAGASHI FESTIVAL. WILL YOU GO WITH US?
I'LL GO HOME RIGHT NOW.
NO...
OYASHIRO -SAMA'S CRIMES THAT HAVE PILED UP FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS...
I'LL ADD MY OWN CRIME TO THIS SERIES.

THE MOST ESSENTIAL THING FOR MY PLAN .
IS TO BE COOLER THAN ICE AND KEEP MY COMPO-SURE
EH?
THE BEST CRIME IN ALL THE DETECTIVE NOVELS I'VE READ?
A PERFECT CRIME?
YES, MOM, YOU LIKE SUCH NOVELS, RIGHT?
I DON'T NEED THE NAME OF THE AUTHOR CAN YOU JUST EXPLAIN THE TRICK? A PER-FECT CRIME. IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE
HMM, WHAT CAN IT BE... MAYBE YOU WON'T CALL IT A PERFECT CRIME BUT AGATHA CHRISTIE'S "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE" WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE THE TRICK IN "MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS" TOO
KEIICHI, IT WOULDN'T BE A MYSTERY NOVEL THIS WAY.


THE PURPOSE OF A MYSTERY NOVEL IS TO ENJOY HOW THE PROTAGONIST FACES A SEEMINGLY UNSOLVABLE CRIME AND GRADUALLY REACHES THE SOLUTION.
YOU CAN'T FIND A PERFECT CRIME IN A MYSTERY NOVEL
I SEE...
A NOVEL CONSISTS OF THE INTRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, THE TURN AND CONCLUSION. THAT "INTRODUCTION" PART...
IF A CRIME IS NEVER DISCOVERED, WON'T IT BECOME THE ULTIMATE PERFECT CRIME?
YES, THE CRUCIAL ELEMENT OF A PERFECT CRIME
ISN'T A MIND-BLOWING TRICK THE POINT IS
...NOT TO LET THE CRIME BE DISCOVERED.
ガラ...
THE PROHIBITED LOCKER
THIS IS
FIRSTLY, I'VE BEEN THINKING WHY THERE ARE TWO LOCKERS WITH SATOKO'S LAST NAME

THE LOCKER THAT BELONGED TO SATOSHI
RANGE POWER. MOBILITY THIS WEAPON HAS NO DRAWBACKS
SATOSHI... I'LL GIVE YOU A LAST CHANCE TO SAVE YOUR SISTER.
BECAUSE YOU WERE A COWARD...
I'LL ACT IN YOUR PLACE.

NEXT IS...
OKAY.. THE WEAPON IS DECIDED.
THIS PLACE.. TEACHER STRICTLY TOLD US NOT TO APPROACH IT. IT'S PROBABLY SAFE.
THE DISPOSAL OF THE BODY.
ONIGAFUCHI SWAMP.
GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS SHOULDN'T PLAY HERE!
HERE I'M GOING TO THROW IN THE BAT I'LL USE FOR THE MURDER AND THE BIKE THAT THE UNCLE WILL PROBABLY USE, AND LET THEM SINK TO THE BOTTOM.
THERE'S AN OLD LEGEND IN THE VILLAGE SAYING THAT THIS SWAMP, CALLED ONIGAFUCHI, IS BOTTOMLESS.

THE CORPSE...
I WON'T THROW IT INTO THE SWAMP
IN THE WORST CASE,
TO COME TO THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE FROM SATOKO'S HOUSE...
HE'LL DEFINITELY PASS BY THIS PLACE
AND HERE...
I'LL LURE THE UNCLE OUT WITH A PHONE CALL
I'LL MURDER HIM...

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TODAY?
THEN...
PROB-ABLY, NOTHING MORE.
I CAN'T LET MY PARENTS SUSPECT ANYTHING.
HELLO, THIS IS SONOZAKI.
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU SO LATE.
MION, IS THAT YOU?
YES. WHO MIGHT BE CALLING ME?
IT'S ME, KEIICHI.
AH... AH, KEI-CHAN? WHY WOULD YOU CALL ME AT THIS TIME...

IT'S ABOUT SATOKO...
.....
HE CAUSES A LOT OF TROUBLE, RIGHT? THAT'S WHY I WANT HIM TO BE KILLED BY THE CURSE TOMORROW.
OKAY, SO WHAT?
WELL, COULD YOU LET ME HAVE A BREATHER AT LEAST FOR TOMORROW?
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SO YOU WON'T COME TOGETHER WITH US? ARE YOU GOING TO ASK ME TO DO SOMETHING?
MION?

ACTUALLY.. I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO SETTLE TOMORROW.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME TO THE FESTIVAL.
BUSI-NESS?
IT'S NOT THAT SERIOUS I THINK I'LL DEAL WITH IT QUICKLY, BUT PERHAPS I WON'T JOIN YOU TOMORROW.
SO, MION...
UGH...
NO.. UGH...
!?
I SAID THAT I DON'T APPROVE OF IT...
I DON'T LIKE... TO BE PUSHED AWAY... UGH...
EH, IT'S NOT THAT...
I'M PUSHING YOU AWAY.
IT'S JUST FOR TOMORROW'S EVENING.

!!?
YOU LIAR!
IS SHE TALKING...
TO SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME?
A-HA-HA-HA-HA. WHAT'S THIS...
I... DIDN'T KEEP MY PROMISE WITH YOU AT ALL...
NOT TO ABANDON THAT GIRL... FOREVER...
YOU SAID THAT IT'D BE JUST THE DAY OF WATANAGASHI... BUT THEN IT BECAME THE WHOLE OF ETERNITY.
LIAR...
MION... WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?

HEY... YOU ARE...
SATOSHI, AREN'T YOU?
YOU NEVER RETURNED SINCE THEN...
BUT YOU CALLED AGAIN JUST TO REJECT ME ONE MORE TIME..
LONG AGO, I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL VERY SIMILAR TO YOURS.
A-HA-HA-HA-HA, DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU.
MION?
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN TALKING ABOUT?
SO SATOSHI CALLED YOU AND SAID THAT HE WOULDN'T COME TO THE FESTIVAL?
SORRY.. TODAY... THERE WAS A MEETING OF THE VILLAGE'S ELDERS... I'M A LITTLE BIT DRUNK, I THINK...
NATSU

WAIT...
.....
YES... I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO DO, SO I CAN'T COME.
SO I WANT TO ASK YOU TO TAKE SATOKO TO THE FESTIVAL IN PLACE OF ME.
AND THEN AFTER A FEW DAYS, HE DISAPPEARED.
SATOSHI MADE A SIMILAR PHONE CALL.
SATOSHI...
CAN IT BE THAT...
IF "THE TRUE MEANING" IS...
IF HE MADE THE SAME PHONE CALL AS I DID
NO WAY...

SATOSHI...
LAST YEAR, SATOKO WAS ABUSED BY HER AUNT AND UNCLE
ON THE DAY OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...
THE AUNT WHO TORMENTED SATOKO THE MOST WAS MURDERED BY SATOSHI
WASN'T SATOKO'S AUNT BEATEN TO DEATH A YEAR AGO?
DO YOU THINK THAT THE CULPRIT WAS SATOSHI?
...AND FLED...
SO HE TOOK ALL THE MONEY HE HAD BEEN SAVING FOR HIS SISTER...
AND THE POLICE WAS CHASING AFTER SATOSHI...
HOWEVER, THE AUNT'S CORPSE WAS DISCOVERED.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I ALSO SUSPECTED HIM. AS YOU MENTIONED, ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO HIM. HOWEVER..
I THINK YOUR REASONING IS WRONG.
SOMEWHERE IN THIS REGION, SOME MAN DRIVEN CRAZY BY STIMULANTS CONFESSED TO THIS CRIME.
THAT'S RIGHT.. I HEARD THAT THIS CASE WAS CLOSED.

HE WAS JUST SOME INSANE PERSON. MOREOVER, HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY RELATION TO HINAMIZAWA.
AND OF COURSE, THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN HIM AND SATOSHI.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE LIED ABOUT THE MURDER AND SACRIFICE HIMSELF TO SAVE SATOSHI.
MORE-OVER...

SATOSHI DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO FLEE. ON THE DAY WHEN SATOSHI RECEIVED HIS PAY-MENT...
...NOBODY BELIEVED ME WHEN I SAID IT...

!?
WAIT A MINUTE. IF HE HAD BOUGHT THAT TOY, HE SHOULD HAVE RETURNED TO SATOKO'S HOUSE, RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO BUY A PRESENT AND JUST DISAPPEAR WITHOUT GIVING IT.

..BUT THE STUFFED TOY HE WANTED TO BUY FOR SATOKO, WAS SOLD.

YES. THAT'S WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND.

AND HER UNCLE EVEN AGREED TO LET HER GO WITH US!
A-HA-HA, SORRY, MAYBE I'VE TOLD YOU SOME CRAZY THINGS. BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT SATOKO! ACTUALLY, I'VE ALREADY INVITED HER.
.....
NO PROBLEM. I'M ALSO SORRY FOR THIS UNNECESSARY TALK..
SORRY FOR MAKING THIS CALL...
AH! THAT'S HOW IT IS..
YES, GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.
THEN, EXCUSE ME..
PERHAPS, I'VE BEEN TOGETHER WITH SATOSHI.
I CHOSE SATOSHI'S BAT AS MY WEAPON...
EVER SINCE...

WERE YOU REALLY A COWARD?
OR MAYBE...
SATOSHI HAS BEEN DWELLING INSIDE MY HEART
NO.
SINCE THE MOMENT I DECIDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF HER NI-NII
YOU WERE A TRUE OLDER BROTHER...
WORTHY OF SATOKO'S RESPECT AND LOVE?
THE DAY OF WATANAGASHI.

I HAVEN'T MET ANYONE ON MY WAY HERE.
LUCKILY...
OKAY.

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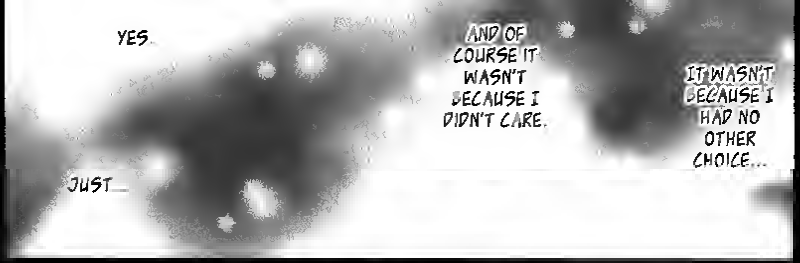
NO, IT'S TOO SMALL.
AFTER DIGGING FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, IT'S STILL SO SHALLOW.
IS THIS BIG...
ENOUGH?
ITCHY.
AND WHY ARE THERE SO MANY MOSQUITOES?
MY SHIRT IS STICKY WITH SWEAT.
DISGUSTING
DISGUSTING!
DAMN IT.
IT'S HOT...

COME TO THINK OF IT...

UP UNTIL NOW...

PERHAPS I CAN SAY THAT I'VE BEEN LIVING...

JUST FOLLOWING SOMEONE'S ORDERS.


YES.
AND OF COURSE IT WASN'T BECAUSE I DIDN'T CARE.
IT WASN'T BECAUSE I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE...
JUST...

WHAT'S INTER-ESTING AND WHAT'S BORING.
I COULDN'T EVEN TELL...
I WAS MEDIOCRE IN BOTH ROPE-JUMPING AND MARA-THONS
I WASN'T EXCEL-LENT IN ANY SPORTS.
4
5
MY PATH.

DO YOU WANT TO ENTER A CRAM SCHOOL? IF YOU UNDER-STAND SOME SUBJECTS BETTER... WOULDN'T IT BE EXCITING?
KEIICHI.
EVERY-THING CHANGED WITH JUST ONE PHRASE SAID BY MOM.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER.
IT WAS LIKE SOLV-ING PUZ-ZLES FROM SOME MAGA-ZINE.
IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM ORDINARY TESTS WITH DOZENS OF TYPICAL QUESTIONS
THE ENTRANCE EXAM WAS SOMETHING LIKE AN AMUSING GAME.

NO. ACTUALLY YOUR SON IS EXTREMELY TALENTED
WHEN I TESTED HIM WITH KRAEPELIN METHOD, I GOT SOME INTERESTING RESULTS
KEIICHI? IT'S PROBABLY... SOME MISTAKE.
HIS GRADES AT SCHOOL WERE ABSOLUTELY AVERAGE.
KEIICHI IS REALLY WEAK WHEN HE IS DEALING WITH MEANINGLESS QUESTIONS CUT-AND-DRIED PROBLEMS THAT HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH HIS EVERYDAY LIFE CAN'T PIQUE HIS INTEREST.
FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU TELL HIM TO DRAW THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CUBE, HE'D BE CONFUSED. BUT IF YOU ASK HIM TO DRAW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO A DIE IF YOU OPEN IT UP, HE'LL GIVE A CORRECT ANSWER.
AND SO, I ASKED HIM TO DRAW THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DODECAHEDRON AFTER FORMULATING THE QUESTION LIKE I EXPLAINED BEFORE
AND KEIICHI EASILY GAVE THE CORRECT ANSWER.
THIS IS NOT SOMETHING AN ORDINARY PERSON CAN DO.
AND SO, I WAS ADMITTED.
MY GROUP CONSISTED OF ONLY FOUR PEOPLE.

* A METHOD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DEVELOPPED BY A GERMAN PSYCHOLOGIST EMIL KRAEPELIN. IT'S BASED ON THE ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN MENTALITY.

AND WHEN I SAW A LOT OF MY CLASS-MATES IN GROUPS WITH LOWER RATINGS...
THE GROUP WITH PEOPLE WHO HAD THE BEST RATING.
AND SO, MY NEW LIFE WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE OLD DAYS.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I WAS DELIGHTED.
THE MORE I STUDIED, THE MORE I WAS FRAIS-
EXCITING.
THE TEACHER WOULD SUDDENLY PAMPER ME.
SENSE OF SUPERIORITY.
SEEING MY PARENTS BEING SATISFIED WITH MY PROGRESS WAS ALSO EXCITING.
BUT IT WAS LIKE THIS ONLY IN THE BEGINNING.

I DIDN'T GET ON WELL WITH MY FRIENDS.
BORING.
I WAS FED UP WITH STUDYING.
PATHETIC
AS THOSE DAYS PASSED
AND THEN
MY IRRITATION GREW STRONGER.
THEY CAME BACK ONCE AGAIN
THE GRAY-COLORED DAYS.
SINCE THEN...
MANY THINGS HAPPENED. MY PARENTS SUGGESTED THAT I SHOULD HAVE A CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT.
AND I CAME TO HINAMIZAWA.
I HAD THE DETERMINATION...
TO REBUILD MY LIFE FROM SCRATCH
CAN YOU ENTER THE CLASS AFTER ME?
YES, OF COURSE.
TEACHER...

AND THEN...
I MET
THEM ALL.
THAT'S A PERFECT CLEAN HIT!
AFTER THAT, EVERY DAY...
WHO THE HELL ARE THEY...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? ALRIGHT?
PAIN, PAIN, FLY AWAY!
WAS FULL OF SUR-PRIS-ES
WO-HO-HO-HO! JUST AS I EXPECTED, YOU ONLY LOOK TOUGH, BUT ACTUALLY YOU'RE A WEAK CITY KID!
SO, FROM THIS DAY, LET'S BEGIN A SPECIAL TRAINING COURSE!

WAITING FOR MONDAY HAS NEVER BEEN SO HARD.
AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES HAVE NEVER BEEN SO FUN
LUNCHES HAVE NEVER BEEN SO DELI-CIOUS.
SMILES
HAVE NEVER BEEN SO SINCERE.
ALL I WANT IS...
IT'S THE PATH THAT I CHOSE MYSELF.
YES. NOBODY ORDERS ME.

IT'S ALREADY SO LATE... OKAY... I'LL RECOVER THE BAT.
THEN I'LL CALL THAT MAN...
AND LURE HIM OUT.
VERY SOON... EVERY-THING WILL BE OVER.
YES. EVERY-THING WILL BE OVER ...

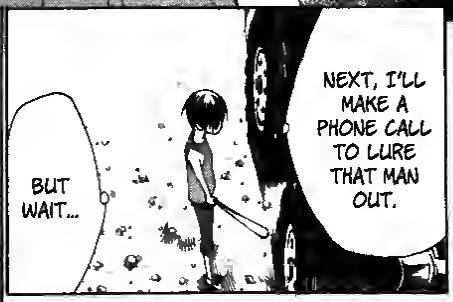
WHEN CICADAS CRY.

HIGURASHI NO NAKU
KORO NI
TATARIGOROSHI-HEN
TRANSLATION: LEOPARD
CLEANING: LEOPARD, ARGOLICS
TYPESET: LEOPARD
PROOFREAD: SUPREMEBULL
SLOWMANGA.SHIKIMA.NET

FINALLY...
I'VE MADE YOU WAIT, SATOSHI...
ARE YOU READY?

CHAPTER 10

DAMN.
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT WHERE I SHOULD CALL HIM FROM!


NEXT, I'LL MAKE A PHONE CALL TO LURE THAT MAN OUT.
BUT WAIT...

THE SCHOOL BUILDING... DAMN, IT'S LOCKED!
MY HOUSE IS TOO FAR AWAY.
DAMN, HOW COULD I FORGET ABOUT THIS? I'M TOO NAIVE!
IS THAT
THE OLD MAN FROM THE FOREST SERVICE WHO LOOKS AFTER THE SCHOOL?
I THINK SATOSHI HAS COME TO HELP ME.
IT'S A PERFECT CHANCE!

ALL RIGHT!
OKAY. THE OLD MAN HAS ALREADY LEFT.
Staff room
QUICK-LY!
PICK UP!
HELLO.
!!
THIS IS SHISHIBONE DISTRICT OKINOMIYA POLICE STATION SPEAKING. ARE YOU MR HOUJOU?
YES, THAT'S ME.
YOUR FOSTER DAUGHTER SATOKO IS HELD HERE.
SATOKO?! DID SHE DO SOMETHING WRONG?
GOT HIM!

I'LL EXPLAIN THE SITUATION IN GREATER DETAIL IF YOU COME HERE.
RIGHT NOW? I WAS TAKING A BATH, I CAN'T LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
YES, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
IMMEDIATELY? DAMN... THAT SATOKO, WHAT DID SHE DO THIS TIME?
I HAVE TO HURRY.
WE'LL EXPLAIN IT HERE. WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU.
I HOPE I DON'T MISS HIM.
COME!

I CAN'T AFFORD TO MISTAKE HIM FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
LOOK CLOSELY!
IS THAT...?!
IS THAT... THE UNCLE?
THAT SHIRT..
THAT FACE!! ALL RIGHT!
I'M GOING!
SATOSHI !!!

HOOOOOH
AH ...
IT HURTS ...
AT THIS LEVEL
"IT HURTS", YOU SAY?

I HAVE TO DISPOSE OF ALL UNNECESSARY INFORMATION IN MY BRAIN.

KILLING THE MAN IN FRONT OF ME IS MY TOP PRIORITY.

EXECUTE EXECUTE EXECUTE

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS!
YOU HURT SATOKO!
BOTH HER BODY AND SOUL! YOU CAUSED COUNTLESS WOUNDS THAT WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR!

YOU ARE A HERESY, ERROR, A HINDRANCE TO THE WORLD!
I WILL...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE APPEARED AT ALL!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM IN THE FIRST PLACE?
ヒィィィィ
ヒィィィィ

ERASE YOU!

FINISH
FINISH
FINISH!
LET YOUR FILTHY BRAIN MATTER SPLATTER OUT...
AND DIE AT ONCE!!!

HAVE I... FINISHED HIM OFF?
HE ISN'T DEFEND-ING HIS HEAD ANY MORE.
WELL, KEIICHI.
CALM YOUR HEART DOWN
THE ADREN-ALIN RUSH IS OVER
THIS IS...

DAMN! WHILE CHASING HIM I MOVED QUITE A DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE PIT.
CRAP! TO CARRY THE CORPSE ALL THE WAY TO THE PIT...
NO... MORE IMPORTANTLY.
THE BIKE!
IT'D BE TERRIBLE IF SOMEONE FINDS THE BIKE LYING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD!
I HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT QUICKLY!
ONIGAFUCHI SWAMP
GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS SHOULDN'T PLAY HERE!

はあ
はあ
SATOSHI...
ドボン
MISUNDER-STANDING YOU.
MAYBE, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN
I WILL NEVER FORGET
THE SHORT PERIOD
OF OUR CO-OPERATION.
AND SWEAR TO LIVE AS LONG AS I CAN STARTING TOMORROW.
THAT'S WHY I'LL TAKE YOUR PLACE...
BUT ACTUALLY YOU DID IT...
AND THEN...
WHEN PEACE FINALLY RETURNED...
YOU DISAP-PEARED IN A FEW DAYS.
NOW I KNOW.
EVERYBODY THINKS THAT THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED BY THAT OUTSIDER...

I HAVE TO HURRY TO THE PLACE WHERE I HID THE SHOVEL.
I'LL DEAL WITH THE CORPSE.
NEXT...
DAMN, I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE THIS DARK!
I SIMPLY CAN'T FIND THE SHOVEL!
TCH
IT'S USELESS!
I'LL RETURN HOME AND BRING A LANTERN AND A SHOVEL FROM THE STORAGE ROOM.

RIGHT NOW, SATOKO... IS PREPARING DINNER FOR HER UNCLE WHO MIGHT RETURN AT ANY MOMENT.
IT'S ALREADY... THIS LATE.
SHE'S VERY [illegible] AS THE TIME PASSES...
BUT THIS UNCLE WON'T RETURN [illegible] WON'T BE SCARED AND SAD BECAUSE OF HIS ANGRY VOICE AGAIN...
DID I...
I... SEE...
I ACCOMPLISHED IT.
DO... THE RIGHT THING?
HOWEVER...
I SEE.
A-HA-HA. A-HA-HA-HA-HA
WHY...

HA-HA
CAN'T I...
WHY DOES MY HEART...
STOP THE TEARS?
HURT SO MUCH?

GOOD... I RETURNED TO THE CORPSE WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.
はず
はず
QUICKLY BEFORE SOMEBODY FINDS OUT...
I HAVE TO DISPOSE OF IT.
はず
はず
はず
はず
はず
はず
ALL RIGHT.
I BURIED IT IN THE GROUND IT'S OVER!
IT'S OVER...
IT'S REALLY OVER.
はず
はず
はず

IT'S OVER, GODDAM' IT!
A CAR...
I SHOULD AVOID IT...

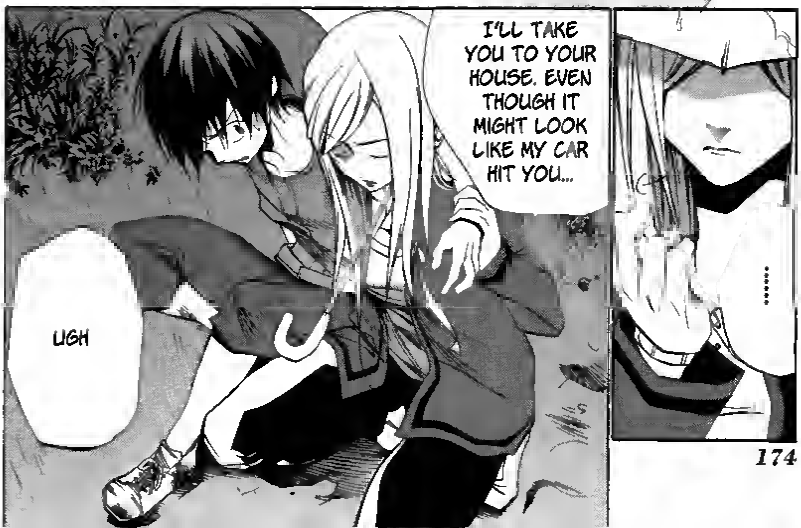
O-O-AH!
CRAP ...
OH MY OH MY WHO MIGHT IT BE?

GOOD EVENING.
THE MOON IS SO BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT, MAEBARA!
TA... TAKANO?
HA
HA
SHE SHOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING!
HA
HA
SHE IS COMING FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION...

I FORGOT IT AT THE DAM WHEN I WENT THERE FOR TREASURE HUNTING WITH RENA, AND I WENT TO PICK IT UP.
WHAT COULD YOU BE DOING AT THIS HOUR? WITHOUT AN UMBRELLA... ALL SOAKED AND COVERED WITH MUD?
WHAT'S THIS? A SHOVEL?
CACKLE *CACKLE* *CACKLE* ISN'T THE DAM IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION? *CACKLE*
HMMMM? AND YOU WENT THERE DESPITE THE DOWNPOUR?
UNLESS SHE FOUND THE HANDKERCHIEF THAT I DROPPED...
THAT I'VE KILLED HIM!
SHE COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW...
I STILL HAVE THE SHOVEL AS A WEAPON.
SHOULD I... SILENCE TAKANO?
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO, MAEBARA KEIICHI?

WHAT A SCARY FACE! DID I TEASE YOU TOO MUCH?
.....
DO YOU PLAN TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?
THAT'S TRUE BUT... HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO BE GROVELING THERE?

YES... I SHOULD MOVE AWAY...
IT HURTS...
DAMN IT! A SPRAIN AT SUCH MOMENT?


I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR HOUSE. EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE MY CAR HIT YOU...
.....
UGH

UGH...
THANK YOU.
ONE MORE... BICYCLE?... A FOLDING ONE?
...ERLY?
EH? SORRY, I COULDN'T HEAR YOU.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

DID YOU BURY IT PROPERLY?
WHA...
THE CORPSE.
WHAT TO DO?
WHY DID IT HAPPEN?
DID SHE...
WHAT?
WHY?
SEE ME?
WHAT TO DO?

SHALL I KILL HER?
NO RESPONSE, NEITHER A SILLY NOR ANGRY ONE?
LOOKS LIKE WE DON'T SUIT EACH OTHER.
HUH?

IN THE END...
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO RETURN HOME AND FALL ASLEEP...
HOW DID I BUMP INTO THIS WOMAN?
WHAT BAD LUCK...
EVERYTHING WAS GOING SMOOTHLY.
WAS IT... A JOKE?
DAMN...

THEN, I'LL BE GOING. WILL YOU KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM EVERYBODY... EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS NIGHT DRIVE?
ESPE-CIALLY FROM JIROU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. YOU CAN LET ME ALIGHT HERE, THE PAIN HAS STOPPED MORE OR LESS.

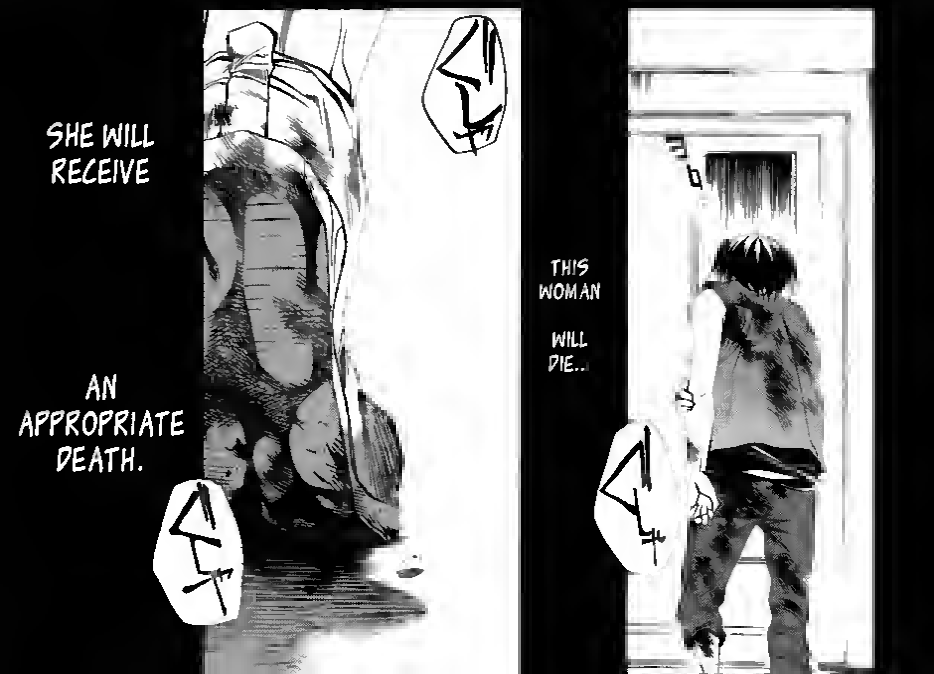
JIROU?
AH.. YOU MEAN TOMITAKE.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
HI! YOU' RE...
MAE-BARA KEIICHI, RIGHT?
YEAH, I'M TOMITAKE JIROU, I'M HAPPY THAT YOU REMEM-BER ME.
THE FOLDING BICYCLE ON THE REAR SEAT
ERR, THE BICYCLE ON THE REAR SEAT...
DOES IT BELONG TO TOMITAKE?
WHY...
DO YOU THINK THAT?

I SAW IT WHEN WE MET LAST TIME. THE FRAME WAS QUITE PECULIAR.
HUH.
BUT ISN'T IT STRANGE?
EH?
YOU SEE... EVERY TIME JIROU VISITS THIS VILLAGE, HE COMES ON THE BICYCLE...
AND NOW, WHILE JIROU IS AWAY...
THE BICYCLE IS HERE... CAN YOU IMAGINE IT?
THAT'S MY BICYCLE... JIROU HELPED ME TO CHOOSE IT... OUR TASTES ARE QUITE SIMILAR...
IS THAT SO... THEY ARE REALLY SIMILAR...
HUH?
WE NEVER MET EACH OTHER TONIGHT.

WE NEVER MET...
EACH OTHER TO-NIGHT.
IT'S WARNING ME...
MY INSTINCTS
I FEEL SOMETHING ROTTEN ABOUT HER.
I'D BE BETTER OFF NOT MEETING THIS WOMAN TONIGHT.
THE SAME... AS ME?
IS SHE...
JUST LIKE THE FEELING I AM EXUDING MYSELF.

IF YOU SAY SO I HAVE NO OBJEC-TIONS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'D BE BETTER FOR YOU THIS WAY.
WHY DO YOU THINK SO?
SHUT UP, YOU'RE ANNOYING! YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO THINK THIS MUCH YOURSELF, BRAT!
YOU'RE LUCKY... BECAUSE I'M SO KIND.
.....

REST ASSURED, MAEBARA.



AND I'LL LET HER DANCE IN THE FIRE UNTIL SHE'S BURNT BLACK.
THE FLAMES WILL BURN HER ALIVE...
I WISH SO
SERIOUSLY ...

EH?
I... WASN'T... WALKING RIGHT NOW.
THE SOUND OF A FOOT-STEP...

HIGURASHI NO NAKU
KORO NI
TATARIGOROSHI-HEN
TRANSLATION: LEOPARD
CLEANING: EVERYONE
TYPESET: LEOPARD
PROOFREAD: SUPREMEBULL
SLOWMANGA.SHIKIMA.NET

AN ODD ONE OUT?
THERE WAS...
THE FOOTSTEPS...
CHAPTER 11

WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?
IT'S ALREADY NOON... WHAT SHOULD I DO.. ABOUT SCHOOL?
MY HEAD... MY BODY...
THEY'RE SO HEAVY...
YESTERDAY, I...
ザーザー

.....
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HER THEN AS WELL.
THAT WOMAN...
AND THEN... I MET...
FINALLY... KILLED SATOKO'S UNCLE...
AND BURIED HIM.
NO... IT WAS DANGEROUS, BUT THAT'S A THING OF THE PAST.
NOW IT'S TIME "TO BE HAPPY".
THINKING ABOUT IT NOW WON'T HELP ME.
LET'S GO TO SCHOOL.
Hi!
OH NO.. THE CLASSES ARE ALREADY OVER. EVERYONE IS...
I'LL GO TO SCHOOL, MEET EVERYONE...
AND FINALLY RETURN TO THE ORDINARY DAILY LIFE.

.....
THAT FOOTSTEP.. AGAIN..
KEIICHI!!
LOOKS LIKE YOU DRANK TOO MUCH SAKE AT THE FESTIVAL YESTERDAY!
EVERY-ONE!
A-HA-HA, YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT, KEIICHI!
HA-HA-HA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "FES-TIVAL"?
OH MY GOD, KEI-CHAN, HOW CAN YOU COME SO LATE? CLASSES HAVE JUST ENDED!
A-HA-HA, KEIICHI IS A SLEEPY-HEAD!

WHAT?
STUPID SHION MADE A PASS ON YOU, BUT PLEASE IGNORE THAT! A-HA-HA-HA!
DID KEIICHI SEE MY PERFORMANCE?
YES! HE WAS WATCHING ATTENTIVELY! HE WAS CLAPPING SO MUCH IN THE END, AND YOU STILL DIDN'T NOTICE.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
HUH?
KEIICHI WAS AWESOME AT THE SHOOTING RANGE TOO! I'LL DEFINITELY TREASURE THE TOY YOU WON FOR ME!
NOBODY THOUGHT YOU WOULD WIN SUCH A HUGE TOY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO ?

STOP STOP STOP, GUYS, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YESTERDAY... I WAS...
I DIDN'T GO TO THE FESTIVAL, RIGHT?
WHO TURNED DOWN SHION'S INVITATION?
WHO WATCHED RIKA'S PERFORMANCE AS PROMISED?
WHO WON A TOY IN THE SHOOTING RANGE AND GAVE IT TO RENA?
WHO WAS
THAT PERSON?

THEN...
AND THEN HE DISAPPEARED?
AND AFTER THAT, AT THE AFTERPARTY, THE LEADERS OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WERE PRAISING KEI-CHAN!
CHIEF KIMIYOSHI SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN GREATLY IMPRESSED BY KEI-CHAN'S SPEECH! HE WANTS TO LET YOU ORGANIZE SEVERAL STANDS FOR THE FESTIVAL NEXT YEAR!
AND ENJOYED THE FESTIVAL WITH EVERYONE
MAEBARA, COULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SHOOTING RANGE IN GREATER DETAIL?
IT CAN'T BE.
SOME OTHER MAEBARA KEIICHI APPEARED
WAS IT SOME OTHER "MAEBARA KEIICHI"?
RIDICULOUS!

WHO AM I?

WE MET ON THE GROUNDS, YOU WERE TALKING MERRILY TO RIKA WHO WAS DRESSED IN A SHRINE MAIDEN'S COSTUME.
I AND RIKA...
EH...
COULD YOU... TELL ME... WHEN DID WE MEET YESTERDAY?
YOU KNOW, I WAS A BIT DRUNK AND I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.

.....
I MET KEIICHI WHEN I LEFT THE ASSEMBLY HALL WITH THE VILLAGE ELDERS. KEIICHI WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF THE RITUAL EQUIPMENT STOREHOUSE.
THE VILLAGE CHIEF WAS A BIT ANGRY AND SAID "IT'S A SACRED PLACE, DON'T COME NEAR IT!". DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
KEIICHI, WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHEN DO YOU THINK I WAS HAVING FUN?
THEN... WHAT ABOUT SATOKO? WASN'T SHE HAVING FUN AT THE FESTIVAL TOGETHER WITH US?
EH?
AH!!

WE TRIED TO STOP HER HER UNCLE LET HER GO WITH US YESTERDAY, HE WOULDN'T GET ANGRY BECAUSE SHE WAS PLAYING ALONE.
SHE SAID THAT IT WAS WRONG FOR HER TO PLAY ALONE WHEN HER UNCLE WAS WAITING AT HOME AND LEFT BEFORE WE WENT TO THE SHRINE.
WHY!?
WE INVITED SATOKO, BUT SHE DIDN'T GO TO THE SHRINE WITH US.
SATOKO...
BUT THAT UNCLE HAS ALREADY BEEN
I WANTED TO PLAY WITH YOU ALL... BUT... IF I HAD DONE SO... AGAIN... AGAIN...
I MUST TAKE CARE OF MY UNCLE! I'M VERY DIFFERENT FROM PEOPLE LIKE KEIICHI WHO HAVE PARENTS THAT SUPPORT THEM!
SATOKO, WHY!?
KEIICHI, YOU'RE SO NICE.. YOU WERE ALL ENJOYING THE FESTIVAL... I'M ENVIOUS

WHAT...
YESTERDAY HE WAS CRUEL TO ME AGAIN!! HE WAS SHOUTING!! AND SCREAMING!! HE TOLD ME TO WAKE HIM UP FOR DINNER, AND I DID WAKE HIM UP, BUT...!! HE WAS MAD!!
HE THREW THE DINNER AT ME!! AND THE MISO SOUP!!

KEI-CHAN.
KEIICHI... WHAT ARE YOU... TALKING ABOUT!?
HE DIDN'T RETURN HOME YESTERDAY, DID HE?
THE UNCLE...
NO WAY.
IS STILL ALIVE?
"DIDN'T RETURN HOME"?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY...
DAMN!!
WHY? WHY WOULDN'T HE RETURN HOME?
RENA HEARD IT. YOU SAID THAT THE UNCLE HADN'T RETURNED HOME.

ISN'T IT STRANGE? EVEN THIS MORNING, WASN'T THE UNCLE AT HOME AS USUAL? WHY DID YOU SAY THIS, I WONDER? I WONDER?
WHY?
SUDDENLY.. THESE TWO...
KEI-CHAN, YOU'VE BEEN SAYING SOME WEIRD THINGS TODAY.
WHAT IS THIS?
AND... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT'S BETTER IF SATOKO'S UNCLE DIS-APPEARS, DON'T YOU THINK SO?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WE CAN'T"? THAT MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT THEN, SATOKO.
THE UNCLE IS AN UN-PLEASANT PERSON. I AGREE THAT IT'D BE BETTER IF HE NEVER EXISTED
BUT WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH HIM.
IF WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

LET'S GO, KEI-CHAN.
LEAVE IT BE. THE PROBLEM MIGHT DISAPPEAR ON ITS OWN.
HM...
THAT'S ...
YOU'RE COMING WITH US, KEI-CHAN. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO REFUSE.
YOU KNOW, TODAY RENA WANTS TO GO TREASURE HUNTING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE. MI-CHAN IS COMING ALONG.
HAS THIS WEIRDNESS CARRIED OVER FROM YESTERDAY?
TODAY...
UGH
EVERYTHING IS SO WEIRD.

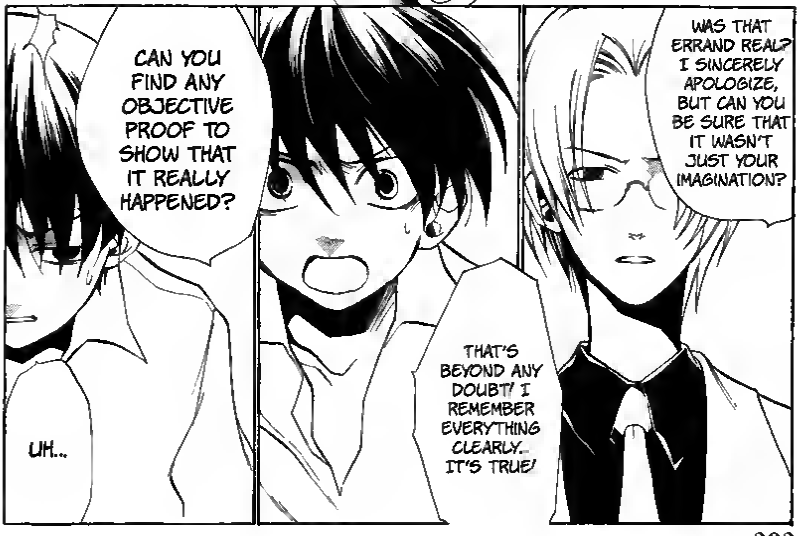
THAT CRAZY NIGHT
ERRR AH. RENA, I HAVE A HEAD-ACHE
I'LL GO TO THE HOSPITAL, I CAN'T JOIN YOU.
IS THAT TRUE?
AH... YES.
THEN, IT'S A PITY.
BE SURE TO VISIT THE HOSPITAL.
YOU'LL SHOW US THE RECEIPT TOMORROW, RIGHT?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THERE'S ANOTHER "MAEBARA KEIICHI"...
EERIE FOOTSTEPS ARE FOLLOWING ME...
AND, ON TOP OF THAT...
RENA AND OTHERS BEHAVE SUSPI-CIOUSLY.
HE IS STILL ALIVE.

IS THIS...
THE HINAMIZAWA I KNOW?
Examination room
HMM MM.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'VE CAUGHT A COLD.
IT'S MORE LIKE YOUR BODY IS ACHING FROM SCRATCHES AND CUTS BECAUSE YOU PLAYED TOO MUCH AT THE FESTIVAL YESTERDAY.
.....
ONCE AGAIN... IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS AT THE FESTIVAL.
DOCTOR, DID YOU GO TO THE FESTIVAL?
YES, OF COURSE. I MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT ACTUALLY I'M A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.

DID YOU MEET ME?
...?
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WAS DRINKING SAKE WITH THE VILLAGE'S ELDERS THROUGHOUT. I DIDN'T GO AROUND THE GROUNDS.
SO I THINK I DIDN'T MEET YOU.
THAT WAS A WEIRD QUESTION! DID YOU FORGET EVERYTHING BECAUSE YOU DRANK TOO MUCH YESTERDAY?
YOU'RE UNDERAGE, YOU SHOULDN'T DRINK TOO MUCH~~
.....
I THINK...
THAT IT'S SUSPICIOUS.

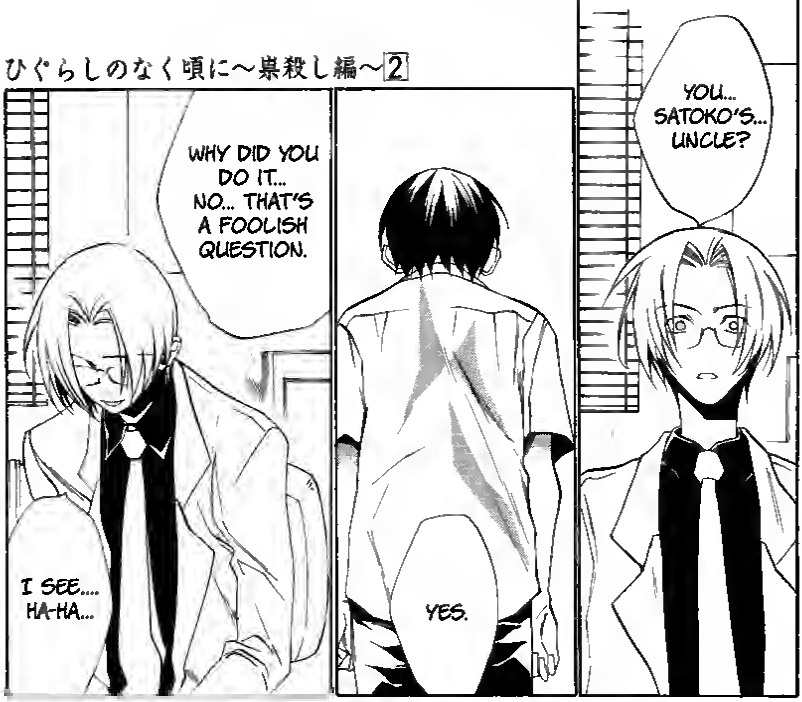
THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE ME... AND HE WAS ACTING AT THE FESTIVAL IN MY STEAD. IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE?
.....?
MAEBARA, IS...
SOME-THING BOTHER-ING YOU?
.....
ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T GO TO THE FESTIVAL.
I SEE...
NEXT YEAR THERE'LL BE A NEW FESTIVAL, I HOPE...
I DIDN'T GO TO THE FESTIVAL, BUT EVERYONE IS SAYING THAT I DID!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!!

NO... THAT'S NOT IT. I'M SURE THAT I NEVER WENT TO THE FESTIVAL.
LET ME ASCERTAIN WHAT YOU SAID.
YOU WANT TO SAY THAT YOU WENT TO THE FESTIVAL, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF IT?
NEVER. AND MOREOVER... IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES.
AT THE TIME OF THE FESTIVAL... I'M SURE THAT I WAS DOING A DIFFERENT ERRAND.
PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME, MAEBARA.
HAVE YOU EVER DISCOVERED YOURSELF IN A PLACE YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE BEFORE?


CAN YOU FIND ANY OBJECTIVE PROOF TO SHOW THAT IT REALLY HAPPENED?
UH...
THAT'S BEYOND ANY DOUBT! I REMEMBER EVERYTHING CLEARLY. IT'S TRUE!
WAS THAT ERRAND REAL? I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE, BUT CAN YOU BE SURE THAT IT WASN'T JUST YOUR IMAGINATION?

APPARENTLY, YOUR NERVES ARE TOO EXCITED. WOULD YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES SO I COULD INJECT A TRANQUIL-IZER?
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO LIE ON THE BED! I'LL PASS.
I THINK YOU SHOULD LIE ON THE BED FOR A WHILE. CALM DOWN YOUR HEART...
I'M ABSOLUTELY NORMAL!
I'M SORRY IF I'VE OF-FENDED YOU. HOWEVER, PLEASE TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND CALM DOWN...
I DIDN'T GO TO THE FESTIVAL! THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE!

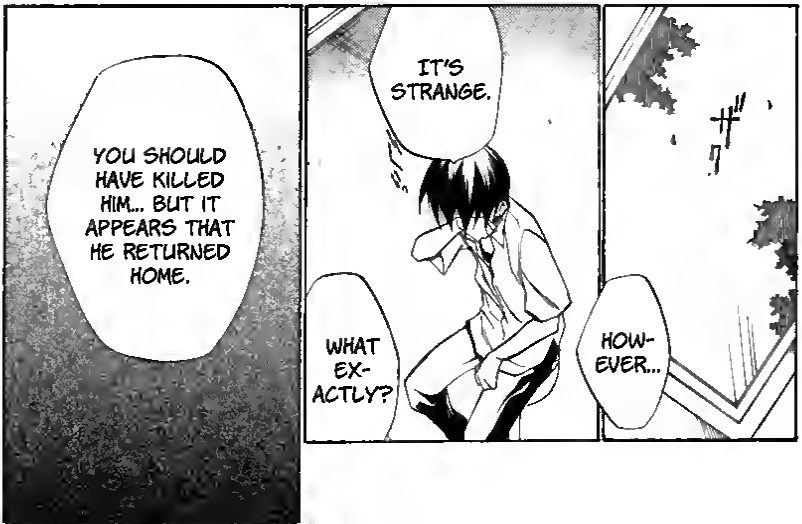
.....
YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME UNLESS I TELL YOU WHAT I WAS DOING AT THAT TIME, RIGHT?
I BELIEVE YOU.
YOU DIDN'T VISIT THE FESTIVAL... RIGHT?
I UNDER-STAND.
I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AT THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS. THAT'S BECAUSE AT THAT TIME...
NO, I BELIEVE YOU, MAEBARA, PLEASE TAKE A SEAT...
I WAS MURDERING SATOKO'S UNCLE.


YOU... SATOKO'S... UNCLE?
YES.
WHY DID YOU DO IT... NO... THAT'S A FOOLISH QUESTION.
I SEE.... HA-HA...

IS THAT THE REASON BEHIND YOUR INJURIES?
YES. ON THE ROAD IN THE FOREST NEAR SATOKO'S HOUSE... I CHASED HIM...
I LURED HIM THERE WITH A FAKE CALL FROM THE SCHOOL. I ENTERED THE SCHOOL BUILDING BECAUSE AN OLD MAN FROM THE FOREST SERVICE HAPPENED TO BE THERE.
MY WEAPON WAS... SATOSHI'S BAT. THE UNCLE'S BIKE... I THREW IT IN ONIGAFUCHI. AND THE CORPSE IS BURIED IN THE FOREST.
.....

I BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU YESTERDAY WASN'T A DREAM.
PROBABLY, YOUR CLASSMATES MISTOOK FOR YOU SOMEONE RESEMBLING YOU... AND SO THEY HAD A COLLECTIVE DELUSION THAT YOU WERE WITH THEM.
DOCTOR...
.....
ARE YOU REGRETTING YOUR CRIME?
NO. I DID IT TO GET BACK THE PEACEFUL TIME WE HAD BEFORE HE APPEARED.
THAT'S WHY I WAS PLANNING TO FORGET THAT I HAD MURDERED HIM AND LIVE AS I DID BEFORE.
I'M A DOCTOR. MY DUTY IS TO SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES. THAT'S WHY I CAN'T VOICE MY APPROVAL FOR FORCEFULLY ENDING A HUMAN LIFE.
SO, I'LL PUT IT THIS WAY...

...
FOR SAVING SATOKO.
THANK YOU...
UH...
DOCTOR...


YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM... BUT IT APPEARS THAT HE RETURNED HOME.
IT'S STRANGE.
WHAT EX-ACTLY?
HOW-EVER...

I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT SITUATION WITH THIS CASE, BUT AMATEURS CAN EASILY MISTAKE UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND ASPHYXIATION FOR DEATH. WOULD THAT BE POSSIBLE IN THIS CASE?
!!
I DIDN'T CHECK HIS PULSE... BUT I THINK I KILLED HIM FOR SURE.
THAT SENSATION
CAN YOU RECOLLECT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR ASSAULT?
HMMM... SOUNDS LIKE HE REALLY DIED
NO! SATOKO SAID THAT HE WAS ALIVE...
ABOVE ALL... EVEN IF HE WAS STILL ALIVE, AFTER BEING BURIED IN THE MUD AND SWAMP, HIS BRAIN WOULD DIE FOR SURE
THEN, I CAN THINK OF ANOTHER DREADFUL POSSIBILITY

EEH!?
THAT YOU KILLED SOMEONE OTHER THAN SATOKO'S UNCLE?
IS THERE A POSSIBILITY...
YES, IT WAS THAT MAN.
IT'S... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! JUST... I MET HIM IN PERSON IN SATOKO'S HOUSE, RIGHT!?
BUT SOME TIME AGO SATOKO TOLD ME...
ACTUALLY, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM...
YES... I SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE HIM AT ONE GLANCE!
WILL YOU TELL ME HIS FEATURES ONCE AGAIN?

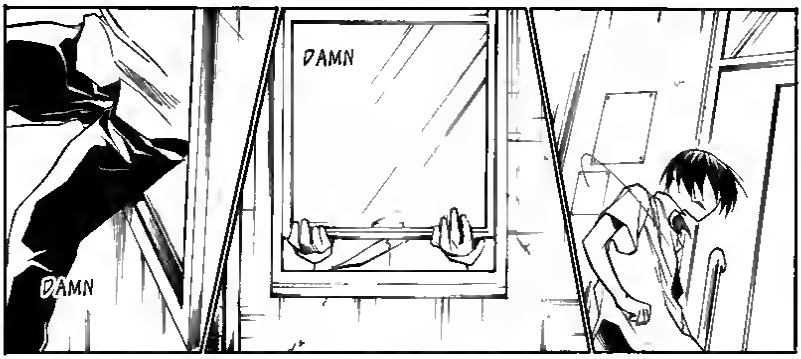
IN THE END...
I CONFESSED TO THE MURDER...
TATTOO...
THAT HE HAD A TATTOO OF SOMETHING LIKE A TIGER ON HIS BACK.
WAIT A MINUTE, I'LL BRING SOME TEA. THE HOSPITAL IS ALREADY CLOSING.
LET'S TALK A LITTLE LONGER
BUT.. DOC LISTENED TO MY STORY.
I'LL GO TO THE BATH-ROOM.
HM?
SO I THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD TRUST ME.
WE WON'T LET HER CRY AGAIN
ON THAT DAY, WE MADE A PROMISE

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO SUBDUE HIM WITH FORCE. HOW MANY MALE STAFF DO WE HAVE?
ONE YAMAINU AND THE THREE OF US.
PUT SOME AMOBARBITAL OR RAVONAL IN IT AND ADD MILK AND SUGAR TO GET RID OF THE MEDICINE'S TASTE.
WHAT IF HE SUSPECTS THAT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE HIM FALL ASLEEP AND TRIES TO RESIST?
DOC?
OKAY, I'LL PREPARE SOME TEA.
AND IF I STRUGGLE, I'LL BE RESTRAINED?
DOC?
HE'S INSTRUCTING THEM TO MIX A SOPORIFIC IN MY TEA...
NO WAY...
RIDICULOUS...
AND I TRUSTED HIM...
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT..?

THERE ARE SYMPTOMS OF CONFABULATION AND FALSE MEMORIES. PARTICULARLY, HIS MEMORIES OF YESTERDAY ARE SOMEWHAT CONFUSED, AND HE CAN'T MAKE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN REALITY AND ILLUSION.
IT RESEMBLES MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER.
BUT THE SUDDEN OUTBREAK OF MENTAL DISORDER IS UNTHINKABLE. MAYBE IT WAS INNATE, OTHERWISE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF IT BEFORE HIS TRANSFER HERE. ANYWAY, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE MAEBARA SLEEP QUIETLY FOR SOME TIME.
HOW... CRUEL!!
WAS IT ALL A LIE!?
I TRUSTED HIM!
I TRUSTED HIM!
DR. IRIE, EMERGENCY! WE'VE FOUND TAKANO!

!!?
DEAD? TAKANO IS DEAD?
THE GIFU PREFECTURAL POLICE DISCOVERED HER. THE PROBABILITY OF IT BEING A MURDER IS EXTREMELY HIGH.
APPARENTLY... THERE WAS A CHARRED CORPSE DISCOVERED IN THE GIFU MOUNTAINS...
TAKANO!? WHERE IS SHE...
WAS SHE BURNED TO DEATH? COULD IT BE AN ACCIDENT?
IS SHE DEAD!?
I WISHED THAT SHE DIED, AND MY CURSE WORKED!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!
HA-HA-HA-HA! THAT'S RIGHT! IT MIGHT NOT BE OYASHIRO-SAMA.
BUT IT'S DEFINITELY A CURSE!
A JINX!!
IF THIS IS NOT A LUCKY COINCIDENCE...
BUT SHE DIED BECAUSE I WISHED SO...
RISA IS DEAD, AND NOW, TAKANO...
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HINAMIZAWA?
COULD IT BE THE CURSE OF OYASHIRO-SAMA?

THEN THE NEXT ONE TO DIE WILL BE YOU, DOC!!!



DIE!

VEXING..

VEXING..

AND I TRUSTED YOU!!!

OO... ISHI...
YOU SHOULD ADDRESS YOUR SENIORS WITH "MISTER", RIGHT?
IF YOU DON'T YOU'LL HAVE A LOT OF TROUBLES WHEN YOU GROW UP. HE-HE-HE.
THE MOON IS SO BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT!
GOOD EVENING, MR. MAEBARA.
WHAT...
IT'S PITCH DARK HERE. I'LL USE A LIGHT.
PROBABLY...
IT WAS SOMEWHERE AROUND...
THIS PLACE.
YES, THE GROUND IS EASY TO DIG...

DON'T MIND US, PLEASE, CONTINUE.
THINK OF US AS SILENT TREES.
WHY IS HE HERE?
DON'T MIND... YOU SAY.

EXACTLY. AT THIS HOUR DURING SUCH A DOWN-POUR...
YOU'RE WORKING SO SERIOUSLY. WE WON'T OBSTRUCT YOU. PLEASE DIG TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT, HE-HE-HE.
UGH

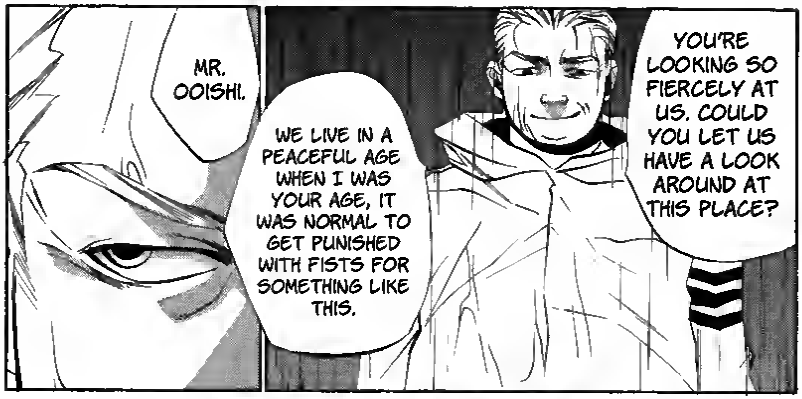
I REFUSE.
!!!
WHAT...

HERE,
CONTINUE, PLEASE.
GODDAMN WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?
AT THIS RATE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THERE IS A TATTOO OR NOT...
I'LL DIG UP THE CORPSE OF THAT MAN....
IT'S... THE END FOR ME.
UGH
WAS IT TAKANO'S DOING?
DAMN!!
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HER MYSELF!!

GODDAMN IT!
HUH
DAMN ...
HUH
HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO DIG?
DID I DIG SUCH A DEEP PIT?
STRANGE ... THE GROUND... BECAME SOLID.
HEY!
KIDS THESE DAYS HAVE NO STAMINA AT ALL.

IS IT YOUR HOBBY TO DIG PITS ON RAINY NIGHTS?
MAEBARA KEIICHI.
!!!
WHO'D HAVE... SUCH A HOBBY?
.....

.....
DAMN... DAMN...
I WONDER, WHAT KIND OF TREASURE LIES IN THAT PIT? COULD YOU TELL ME?
EVERYTHING WAS STARTED...
BY HIM!
EVERYTHING BECAME STRANGE WHEN YOU APPEARED! SATOKO WAS TORMENTED BY HER UNCLE.... I BECAME A MURDERER... AND THE WORLD WENT CRAZY.
I'LL KILL YOU WITH THE CURSE!
THEN YOU'LL DIE TOO!
DIE! YOU SHOULD ALSO DIE!
IF I HAD POWER TO KILL TAKANO WITH THE CURSE!..


MR. OOISHI.
WE LIVE IN A PEACEFUL AGE WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, IT WAS NORMAL TO GET PUNISHED WITH FISTS FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE LOOKING SO FIERCELY AT US. COULD YOU LET US HAVE A LOOK AROUND AT THIS PLACE?

HA-HA DID YOU FIND IT AT LAST, DAMN BLOCK-HEAD?!
...!
PLEASE, HAVE A LOOK.
YES, WHAT DID YOU FIND?

WHAT'S THIS?
LOOKS LIKE AN OLD WATER PIPE. IT'S PROBABLY CONNECTED WITH THAT FLUME.
MR. OOISHI, THE GROUND IS VERY SOLID BELOW. NOTHING CAN BE BURIED EVEN DEEPER.
DID HE DIG IN THE WRONG PLACE?
NO... IN THE BEGINNING, THE GROUND OBVIOUSLY LOOKED LIKE IT WAS DUG UP RECENTLY. BUT AFTER DIGGING THIS DEEP, IT BECAME SOLID
HE PROBABLY DUG A PIT EVEN DEEPER THAN THE ORIGINAL ONE
SO TO SUM IT UP, THERE WAS A PIT HERE, THERE WAS NOTHING INSIDE IT, BUT HE STILL DECIDED TO DIG IT UP AGAIN?
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THAT?
HA-HA-HA, THAT'S QUITE TROUBLESOME.
WHAT... HAPPENED?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THIS?
THERE'S NO CORPSE?
THE PRIMARY PROOF OF WHAT I DID ON THAT NIGHT... DISAPPEARED?
DOES THIS MEAN THAT IT WAS ALL AN ILLUSION?
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
OR DOES IT MEAN THAT I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE
AND JUST RETURNED HOME FROM HERE?

THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!
OUCH!

.....

AND THE POLICE COMES...
NOW I JUST DON'T CARE ANY MORE.
THIS IS AN OBVIOUS WEAPON.
BUT EVEN IF SOMEONE SEES ME...
NOW THE WHOLE WORLD IS JUST INSANE.
IN THIS WORLD, SOMEONE APPEARS AS "ME" AND GOES TO THE FESTIVAL.
BUT ANOTHER ME RETURNS HOME AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED.
I AM ARRESTED BY THE POLICE...

A FOOT-STEP.
SATOSHI?
ARE YOU, BY ANY CHANCE ...
LET'S GO, SATOSHI...
LET'S KILL HIM
ONE MORE TIME.
THE DOOR...
ISN'T LOCKED.

!!!
THE TV
!!
THE REMAINS OF SCORCHED RICE..
AND MISO SOUP?
HAS IT BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE LAST NIGHT?
ハハハハ
THE UNCLE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. AND IT'S SO EARLY...

!!
THIS SOUND... IS IT COMING FROM THE BATHROOM? IT SOUNDS LIKE A BOILER
SATOKO'S CLOTHES... IS SATOKO INSIDE?
IS THIS... THE RICE I SAW EARLIER?
WAIT...
IT...
IT CAN'T BE..
IT CAN'T BE!
SHE HAS BEEN IN THE BATH SINCE YESTERDAY!?

SA...
SATOKOOOOOO!!

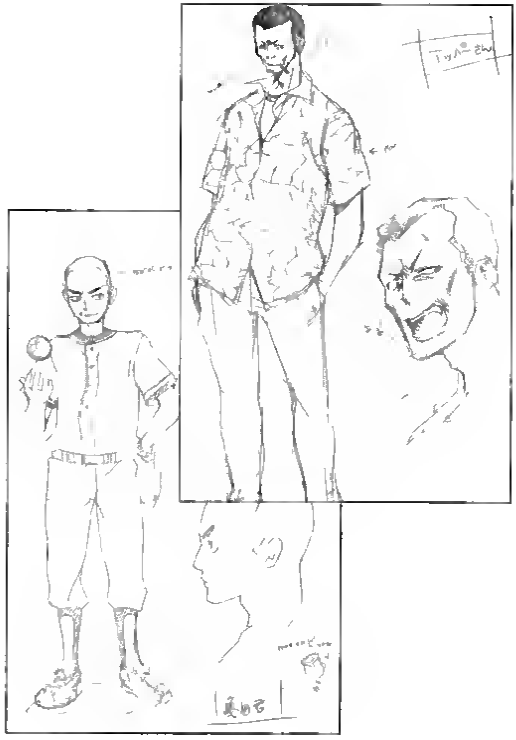
HIGURASHI NO NAKU
KORO NI
TATARIGOROSHI-HEN
TRANSLATION: LEOPARD
CLEANING: LEOPARD
TYPESET: LEOPARD
PROOFREAD: SUPREMEBULL
SLOWMANGA.SHIKIMA.NET

CHAPTER 12

SATOKO!!
CHAPTER 12
SATO...
OUCH...
!!
SHE SPENT A WHOLE NIGHT IN THIS HOT BATH?
SATOKO
HANG IN THERE!

Special thanks

・野田ハルヲ　様
・ARIMATY　様
・椎名歩未　様
・担当　望月　様



IN THIS SITUATION, I HAVE TO COOL HER...
UH
SATOKO! IT'S ME, KEIICHI! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
AH... KEI... ICHI... SA... HI....

EVERYTHING IS ALRIGHT, SATOKO! DON'T WORRY, I... NO, NII-NII WILL SAVE YOU!
TY... EIGHT.
FIVE THOUSAND THIRTY-NINE...
...?
IS SHE COUNT-ING?
5039?
SATOKO! ARE YOU COUNTING!? WHAT'S THIS "FIVE THOU-SAND"?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO COUNT TO WHILE STAYING IN THE BATHROOM?
TEN... THOU SAND

DAMN BASTARD!
I'LL KILL HIM!
I'LL DEFINITELY KILL HIM!!!
DEFINITELY!!
!!
KEI... ICHI?
DAMN... TREATING SATOKO IS MY TOP PRIORITY NOW.
HANG IN THERE, SATOKO!
NII-NII WILL DEFINITELY...
SAVE YOU!

THAT'S..
JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE, SATOKO
WHAT'S THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. I'LL WAIT AND SEE.
BRINGING A LADY COVERED WITH JUST A BATH TOWEL TO SUCH PLACE..
YOU'RE A CREEP.
THIS CURSE IS NOTHING IN OUR SITUATION

THERE WERE SIGNS OF HIGH FEVER AND DISTURBANCE OF CONSCIOUSNESS, I CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS A TYPICAL CASE OF SOPORIFIC POISONING, SO I TRIED TO GIVE TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY.
THERE WAS A WATER JUG AND AN EMPTY BOTTLE OF SOPORIFIC ON THE TABLE, THUS YOU CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS A SUICIDE... IS THAT ALL?
HE WAS SITTING ON THE SOFA IN HIS OFFICE, AS IF HE WERE JUST SLEEPING.
SO, IN SHORT, YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE TO DISCOVER IT DURING YOUR MORNING DUTY. SO, WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
WHO?...
COULD IT BE?
SUICIDE?
HELLO, KOMIYAMA HERE, GOOD JOB IT LOOKS LIKE A SUICIDE WITH SOPORIFIC WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY KIND OF MESSAGES WRITTEN BY HIM.
HEADQUARTERS SPEAKING! MR. KOMIYAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

THEN...
MAYBE...
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE.
AND YESTERDAY...
I WISHED THAT THAT DOCTOR WOULD DIE
AND THE NEXT DAY TAKANO REALLY DIED.
I WISHED HER DEAD...
WAS HE USING SOPORIFICS REGULARLY?

DR. IRIE USUALLY... WITH HIS PERSONALITY, THIS IS...
IT'S REALLY HIM!!

HE REALLY DIES.
WHEN I WISH THAT SOMEBODY WOULD DIE
THIS WORLD IS INSANE...

I'LL KILL YOU WITH THE CURSE!
DIE!
WHAT ABOUT OOISHI?
THE MOON IS SO BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT!
THEN...

I'M SENDING REINFORCEMENTS TO YOU, LEAVE THE REST TO THEM AND CONTINUE SEARCHING OOISHI'S CAR.
ROGER! REINFORCEMENTS ARE COMING, SO PLEASE LEAVE THE SCENE AS IT IS.
LET'S GO.
DID HE SAY "SEARCHING OOISHI'S CAR?"
OOISHI IS MISSING?
ON THE NEXT DAY AFTER I HAD WISHED SO
TAKANO, DOC AND OOISHI PERISHED!!

SATOKO, IS THAT YOU? YOU SCARED ME.
YIKES!
UWAAA AAAH!
YOU SCARED ME AS WELL. DON'T SCREAM LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN!
AND WHAT'S GOING ON?
I HEARD POLICEMEN SPEAKING...
I HAVE A HEAD-ACHE.
I CAN'T STAY IN THIS OUTFIT ANY LONGER.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?

APPARENTLY, DR. IRIE COMMITED SUICIDE.
EHH...
KEIICHI, IS THAT TRUE!? ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT WRONG?
I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT I HEARD. DR. IRIE COMMITED SUICIDE...
NO... NO WAY!! HOW COULD HE HAVE COMMITED SUICIDE!?
IT... CAN'T HAPPEN...

YESTERDAY... I... HAD A QUARREL WITH HIM...
I CURSED HIM AND WISHED HIM DEAD... AND NOW... HE REALLY DIED.
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
I'M SORRY.
.....
.....
LET'S GO TO RIKA'S HOUSE... I WANT TO PUT SOME CLOTHES ON.
AND AFTER THAT WE CAN GO TO THE HOSPITAL FOR AN EXAMINATION.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, KEIICHI... DR. IRIE IS AN ADULT, TOO...
IF HE WAS IN A SITUATION WHERE HE HAD TO THROW AWAY HIS LIFE... THEN NOBODY IS AT FAULT.

KEIICHI?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU'VE BEEN A BIT DOWN...
THE LAST FEW DAYS... WERE WEIRD.
WHY?
TELL ME, SATOKO ...
IF I TELL YOU THAT I DIDN'T GO TO THE FESTIVAL... WILL YOU BELIEVE ME?
OF COURSE I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT. WHY ARE YOU ASKING?
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT, RIGHT? I CAN'T BELIEVE EITHER. I DIDN'T GO TO THE FESTIVAL, BUT EVERYONE SAYS THAT I APPEARED THERE AND HAD FUN WITH EVERYONE.
IS THAT... TRUE?
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

YEAH... EVERYTHING HAS BEEN WEIRD SINCE WATANAGASHI...
BEFORE I REALIZED, STRANGE FOOTSTEPS STARTED FOLLOWING ME...
FOOTSTEPS?
.....
YES, EVER SINCE THE DAY OF WATANAGASHI... WHEN I DIDN'T GO TO THE FESTIVAL AND DID A CERTAIN THING INSTEAD.
I WON'T FORGET IT FOREVER...
AND THEN, RIGHT AFTER THAT, I MET TAKANO... I FELT THAT SHE WAS LOOKING DOWN ON ME... AND INSIDE MY HEART, I WISHED THAT SHE DIED...
TAKANO ALWAYS HAS THAT LOOK FOR SOME REASON...
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD SAY THAT.
DO YOU KNOW... THAT TAKANO IS DEAD? YESTERDAY, SHE WAS BURNT TO DEATH SOMEWHERE.
EH!?

!!!
I ALSO... ACTUALLY... WISHED THAT HE DIED YESTERDAY.
HE IS ALSO... MISS-ING.
AND MOREOVER, DO YOU KNOW THE DETEC-TIVE, OOISHI?

HO-HO-HO-HO... THAT'S A REALLY SCARY STORY... BE CAREFUL, OR I'LL START HATING YOU, KEIICHI.
YOUR UNCLE...
AND THAT'S NOT ALL! THERE WERE EVEN MORE WEIRD EVENTS!
HO-HO...

IMPOSSIBLE! HE COULDN'T HAVE POSSIBLY BEEN THERE!!
PLEASE, DON'T TALK ABOUT MY UNCLE! I HATE IT!
WAS HE AT HOME.. YESTER-DAY?
PLEASE, DON'T TALK ABOUT MY UNCLE.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK ABOUT THIS!! I HATE IT!!
THAT MAN COULDN'T HAVE EXISTED AFTER WATANA-GASHI NIGHT... BECAUSE... BECAUSE...

I KILLED HIM!! WITH MY OWN HANDS!!
ON THE NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL... I MURDERED YOUR UNCLE. THAT'S WHY... HE COULDN'T HAVE RETURNED HOME.

THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO OBTAIN SOME PROOF THAT I HAD KILLED HIM, AND EXCAVATED THE CORPSE!!
BUT HE DID RETURN!
BUT!! THE CORPSE WASN'T THERE! I WAS SURE THAT I HAD KILLED HIM!! BUT HE RETURNED HOME AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED! THIS... COULDN'T BE REAL!?
.....
.....
I BET.. YOU'RE ALSO THINKING THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH MY HEAD..
KE... KEIICHI, LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE EXPERIENCED A SERIOUS SHOCK.. YOU'RE CONFUSED.
IT'D BE BETTER FOR YOU TO RETURN HOME AND HAVE A REST TODAY. I CAN.. MANAGE BY MYSELF.
I'LL GO HOME AFTER I TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL. YOU'RE STILL DIZZY.
I'M REALLY TOTALLY OKAY NOW...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT...?
CROWS. SO MANY OF THEM
IS THAT A GARBAGE BAG? WHY IS IT THERE?

ИН...

!?
WHAT HAPPENED, KEIICHI?
!!
NOOOOOO, RIKAAAAAA!

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?
I DEFINITELY...
WISHED DEATH UPON TAKANO, OOISHI AND DOC.
BUT...
I DIDN'T WANT RIKA'S DEATH.
THAT WASN'T... ME...
NO...
WHY DID IT HAPPEN?
.....!!
KEI...
ON+

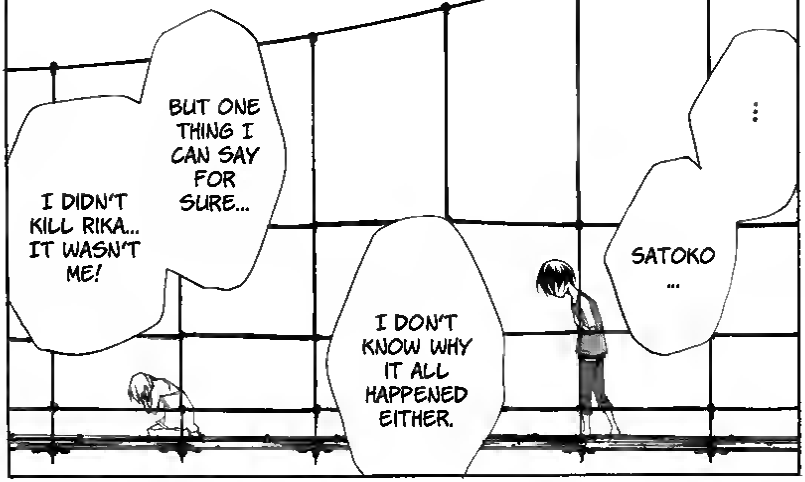
!!!
MU...
MUUU...
SATO KO?
CALM... CALM DOWN, SATOKO!
MUR... DE... RER...
THIS IS...
AH...
PLEASE... DON'T PANIC.
EEK...
YOU'RE WRONG, IT WASN'T ME...

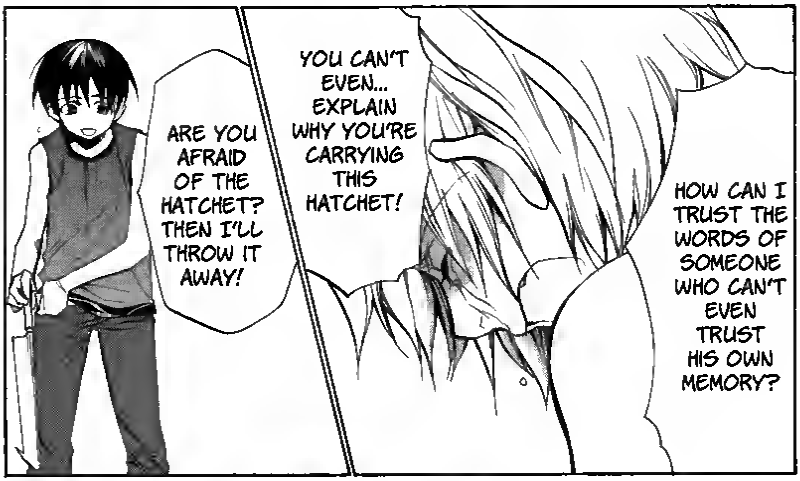
!!
NOOOOOOOOO
WAIT, SATOKO! YOU'RE MISTAKEN! THAT'S NOT IT!
YOU MURDERED TAKANO AND DR. IRIE AND OOISHI!! YOU TRIED TO MURDER MY UNCLE... AND NOW... EVEN RIKA! EVEN RIKA!!
I DIDN'T MURDER HER!
YOU'RE WRONG!!

THIS IS...
WHY ARE YOU CARRYING A HATCHET IN THE FIRST PLACE!?
YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE DOING! THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BELIEVE YOU!
YOU TEASED ME SOMETIMES... BUT YOU WERE VERY FUNNY... AND KIND... ONCE I EVEN THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE LIKE A REAL NII-NII... WHY DID YOU TURN INTO A MONSTER!?
WHAT MADE YOU DO THIS?
SEE! KEIICHI, YOU'RE A MURDER MANIAC!
WHY!!
SATOKO... YOU'RE WRONG...
JUST AS SATOKO SAYS?
A HOMICIDAL MANIAC...
AM I...

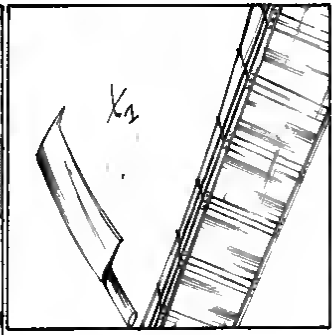
AM I A MURDERER... WHO IS CARRYING OUT THE CURSE IN THE NAME OF OYASHIRO-SAMA AND LOSES ALL RECOLLECTION ABOUT IT?
NO!!
WHY...
WHY...
WHY?
WHEN NII-NII DISAPPEARED.. I WAS ALWAYS LONELY.. BUT WHEN YOU CAME TO THE VILLAGE... EVERYONE BECAME CHEERFUL AGAIN...
WHY?
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN... EVERY DAY FELT SO BRIGHT... WHY...
WHY DID IT COME TO THIS?

!!
SATOKO, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
DON'T COME CLOSE TO ME, YOU MUR-DERER!!
I REALLY... REALLY... LIKED YOU, KEIICHI!
WHY.. DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS?


I DIDN'T KILL RIKA... IT WASN'T ME!
BUT ONE THING I CAN SAY FOR SURE...
I DON'T KNOW WHY IT ALL HAPPENED EITHER.
SATOKO ...
...


ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE HATCHET? THEN I'LL THROW IT AWAY!
YOU CAN'T EVEN... EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE CARRYING THIS HATCHET!
HOW CAN I TRUST THE WORDS OF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN TRUST HIS OWN MEMORY?

LOOK... IS IT BETTER NOW? WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME NOW?



KEIICHI ISN'T A BAD PERSON... I VAGUELY UNDERSTAND...
YOU WERE PROBABLY... POSSESSED BY SOME-THING EVIL.
.....

A FEW MINUTES AGO I WAS SURE YOU WERE A MUR-DERER...
BUT NOW I KNOW... AFTER LOOKING IN YOUR EYES...
I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE YOU'RE POSSESSED BY THE SAME BEING AS THOSE OTHER PEOPLE...

EH? SATOKO, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I UNDERSTAND... I REMEMBER HAVING EXPERIENCED IT MYSELF...
SEVERAL YEARS AGO... WE WERE PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK WITH RIKA AT THE SHRINE, AND ACCIDENTALLY...

I WAS SO SCARED BY HIS ANGRY EXPRESSION... I FEARED PUNISHMENT... AND UNTIL THE END, I COULDN'T TELL ANYONE THAT IT WAS ME!
I BROKE THE RIGHT HAND OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S STATUE!!
I ENTERED THE RITUAL EQUIPMENT STORE-HOUSE, EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS PROHIBITED.
THE PRIEST... RIKA'S FATHER, SCOLDED HER VERY STRICTLY FOR USING HER KEY TO OPEN IT AND PLAY INSIDE!
AND THEN... I MADE A BLUN-DER.
I RECEIVED DIVINE PUNISHMENT FOR STAINING THE SACRED STOREHOUSE AND ABAN-DONING MY FRIEND...
NOW I KNOW... I WAS CURSED BY OYASHIRO-SAMA ON THAT DAY.
AND THEN KEIICHI TRANSFERRED HERE... AND I THOUGHT THAT THE FUN DAYS ARE BACK... AND NOW KEIICHI WAS POSSESSED!!
AND NII-NII, WHO CARED ABOUT ME MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE... LEFT ME AND DISAPPEARED!
MY FATHER AND MOTHER DISAPPEARED IN THE STREAM... AND MY CRUEL AUNT DIED...

I CAN'T BEAR IT ANY MORE!!!
THAT'S WHY KEIICHI HAS BEEN CURSED!
AND THEN IN THE END HE KILLS YOU AS WELL!
I HEARD IT BEFORE! WHEN OYASHIRO-SAMA CURSES YOU... HE KILLS EVERYONE DEAR TO YOU, ONE BY ONE!
DON'T CRY, SATOKO! CURSES DON'T EXIST! NOBODY IS TRYING TO HURT YOU!!

EH...

SATOKO... SATOKO!!
...
SA...
オーイ
ナビ

DIE, YOU MURDE-RER!!!
SATOKO...
PROBABLY... I WAS MISTAKEN... BUT...
WHAT I DID... WAS CERTAINLY UNFORGIV-ABLE...
PLEASE... LISTEN TO ME AT LEAST FOR NOW...

WE ALL COULDN'T BE TOGETHER... WITHOUT YOU.
THAT'S WHY... I JUST WANTED YOU TO BE HAPPY.
SO... EVEN WHEN I DISAPPEAR AND YOU START A NEW LIFE...
I WANT YOU...
TO SMILE AGAIN...

DAMN YOU!! YOU'RE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF KEIICHI UNTIL THE VERY END!!
FALL DOWN!! FALL DOWN AT ONCE!!!

IF IT IS STILL POSSIBLE, I WANT TO MAKE ONE MORE WISH.
PROBABLY, I'VE DISAPPEARED LONG AGO...
NO... I WASN'T INSANE AT ALL...
YES... ON THE NIGHT OF WATANAGASHI!
THIS IS... A FAREWELL TO THIS INSANE WORLD. BYE-BYE, HINAMIZAWA...
I WANTED... TO SEE SATOKO SMILING... ON MY LAST MOMENTS.
OR WAS IT HINAMIZAWA?
WHO WAS INSANE IN THE FIRST PLACE? WAS IT ME?

I WANT THIS WHOLE WORLD CALLED HINAMIZAWA...

TO DIE.

SO THAT NOBODY MAY LOSE HIS WAY IN THIS MAD WORLD EVER AGAIN.

HIGURASHI NO NAKU
KORO NI
TATARIGOROSHI-HEN
TRANSLATION: LEOPARD
CLEANING: LEOPARD
TYPESET: LEOPARD
PROOFREAD: SUPREMEBULL
SLOWMANGA.SHIKIMA.NET

MY SORROW WAS THE DEEPEST.

BECAUSE I KNEW THAT THERE WAS
NO WAY OUT OF THIS MAZE.

YOUR SORROW WAS THE
SECOND DEEPEST.

BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT
THERE WAS NO WAY OUT OF THIS MAZE.

ALL OTHER PEOPLE HAD
NO SORROW AT ALL.

BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT
THEY WERE IN A MAZE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

FINAL
CHAPTER

Frederica Bernkastel

KEIICHI, WILL YOU PAT ME ON THE HEAD AND SAY THAT I'M A GOOD GIRL?
KEI-CHAN, I WANT TO TAKE HIM HOME!
HAUU~ KEIICHI IS SO CUUUTE!
I'M ENVIOUS...
BECAUSE YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SEAT!
EH, KEIICHI?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I FELL FROM THAT HEIGHT...
AM I... STILL ALIVE?
SATOKO... ISN'T THERE ANY MORE...
UGH.
I BARELY ESCAPED DEATH.. THANKS TO THAT THING.
HOW LONG DID I LIE HERE UNCONSCIOUS?
DAMN. I SHOULD GO TO THE HOSPITAL FIRST.

はあ
ハアハア
はあ
SO QUIET
I CAN'T EVEN HEAR ANY INSECTS
WEIRD
WHAT'S THIS STRANGE SMELL? IT'S LIKE THE SMELL OF BURNT EGGS... I HATE IT...
IT MAKES ME SICK.
!

A DEAD...
BUG?
DID THEY SPRAY AN INSECTICIDE IN THIS AREA?
THE SCHOOL... IS NEAR. SOMEBODY MUST BE THERE...
I'M SAVED!
PEOPLE
BUT...
WHY ARE THERE TRUCKS NEAR OUR SCHOOL?

WHAT IS . .
THAT?

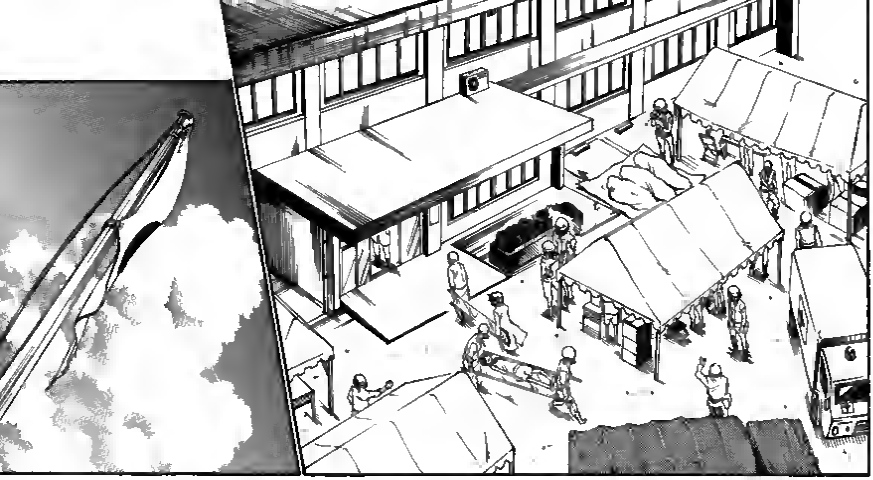
MOREOVER...
WHO ARE ALL...
THESE MEN?
SACKS?
WHY ARE THERE...
SO MANY OF THEM?
THIS UNIFORM...
SELF-DEFENSE FORCE?
WHY ARE THEY HERE?
HEY, YOU. WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
!

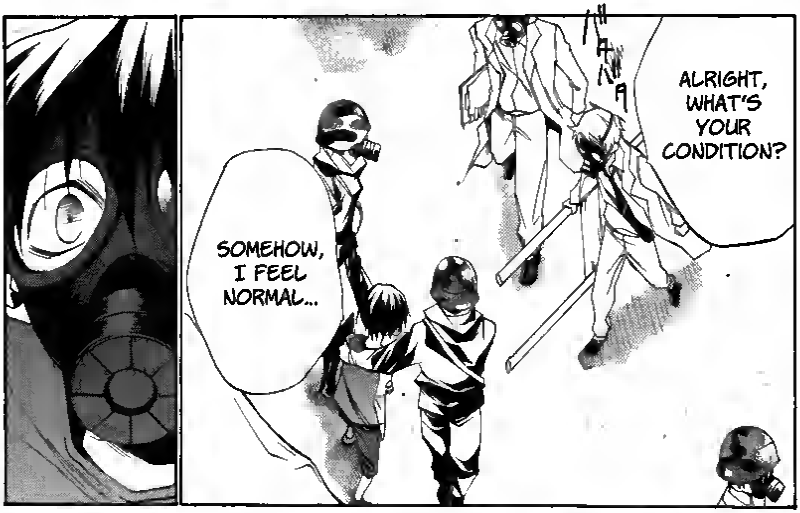
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? OUCH...
...
DO YOU LIVE IN HINAMIZAWA? CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS?
YES... I'M MAEBARA KEIICHI, I LIVE IN...
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
REQUESTING RESPONSE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS. SURVIVOR FOUND IN 402. I REPEAT, 402, SURVIVOR FOUND.
HEADQUARTERS SPEAKING. IF YOU HAVE SECURED THE SURVIVOR, REPORT HIS CONDITION
THE SURVIVOR IS IN GOOD HEALTH, HE HAS EXTERNAL WOUNDS ON HIS BODY BUT IT'S NOT LIFE-THREATENING. HE CAN WALK WITHOUT HELP. REPORT THIS TO THE HEADQUARTERS.
PUT THIS ON.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
EXCUSE ME... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN HERE?

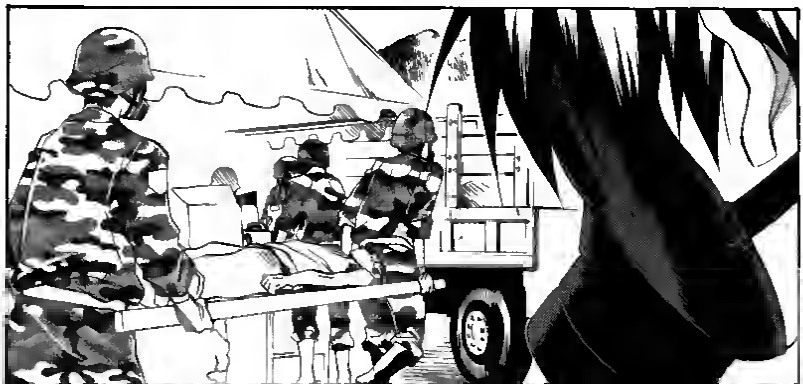
I FELL FROM A SUSPENSION BRIDGE AND LOST CONSCIOUSNESS ON A RIVER BEACH. I DON'T EVEN KNOW TODAY'S DATE.
EXCUSE ME... WHY IS THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE HERE? IS IT SOME KIND OF EXERCISE?
.....
...FROM OUR REPORTER... HAVE RECEIVED THIS... NOW BACK TO THE MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING TO COUNTER THE DISASTER...
...UNPRECEDENTED DISASTER... WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION... WHETHER THE DAMAGE HAS SPREAD TO OTHER AREAS...
A LARGE SCALE DISASTER OCCURED LATE IN THE NIGHT OF JUNE 22ND, IN HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE, SHISHIBONE DISTRICT.
THE DETAILS ARE NOT CLEAR YET, BUT ACCORDING TO CURRENT INFORMATION, THERE WAS AN EMISSION OF POISONOUS VOLCANIC GAS THAT EVENTUALLY SPREAD INTO THE VILLAGE.

THE GAS HIT HINAMIZAWA THAT IS SITUATED NEAR THE SWAMPS. AND IN A FEW HOURS, THE WHOLE VILLAGE WAS COVERED BY THE VAPORS.
ALL CITIZENS OF HINAMIZAWA HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE DISASTER, THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS IS APPROXIMATELY ... PEOPLE ... THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE IS CONFIRMING THE SITUATION AT THE MOMENT.

WHAT IS... THIS?
EH...
GAS?
WHAT DID THEY SAY?
DISASTER? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
HINAMIZAWA?
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?




ALRIGHT, WHAT'S YOUR CONDITION?
SOMEHOW, I FEEL NORMAL...



CAN THIS GO ON THAT TRUCK?
IT'S COMPLETELY LOADED.

WHAT
OH...
"ALL VILLAGERS HAVE BEEN LOST."
OKAY.
WAS
IDIOT, DON'T HANDLE THE CORPSES SO ROUGHLY! THEY'RE THE CITIZENS OF THIS VILLAGE!
"UNPRECEDENTED DISASTER".
THE LAST THING
AH, THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
THEN, THOSE SACKS WERE...
I WISHED FOR?

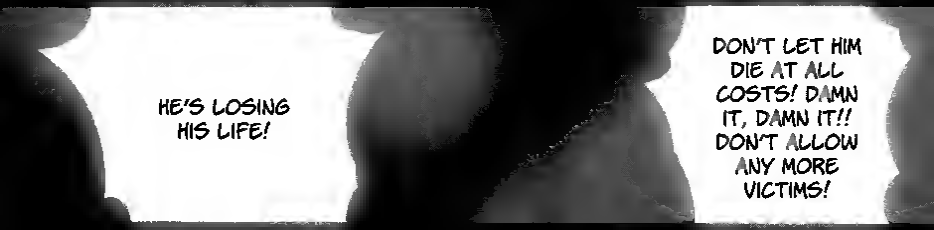
I want this
whole world called
Hinamizawa to die.

MY LAST WISH
CAME TRUE...
HEY! HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS! CALL HIM BY HIS NAME!
!!
I
DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ANY MORE...
AND I DON'T CARE.
MAEBARA!!
MAEBARA!
MAEBARA! CAN YOU HEAR ME? IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, AT LEAST WINK IN RESPONSE!
IF I CAN WISH... AND CURSE OTHERS...
AND IT'S FULFILLED ON THE FOLLOWING DAY...
THEN, PLEASE MAKE ME DIE TOMORROW...
HE STOPPED BREATHING! CHECK THE RESPIRATOR! TRY ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION!
!!

YES...

TODAY I DON'T HEAR...

THOSE FOOTSTEPS ANY MORE.



AT LAST

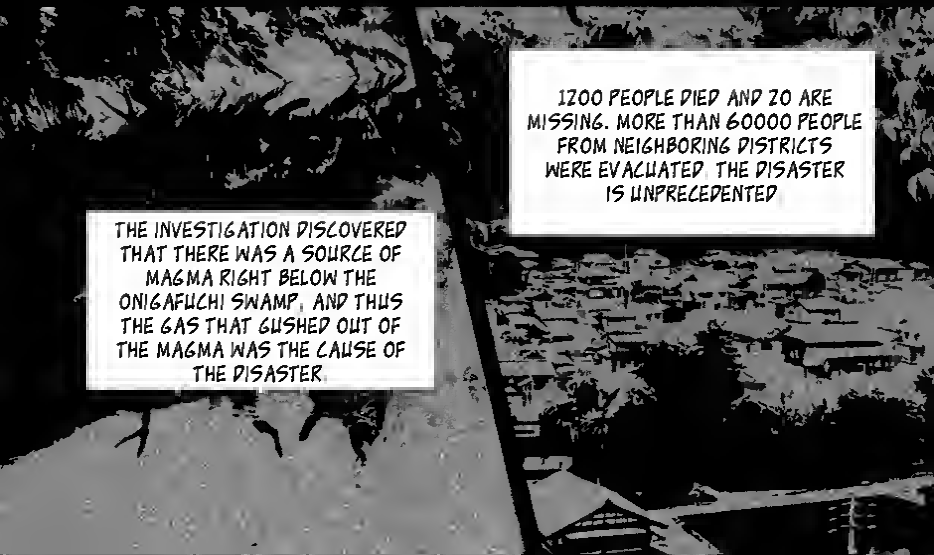
I WAS

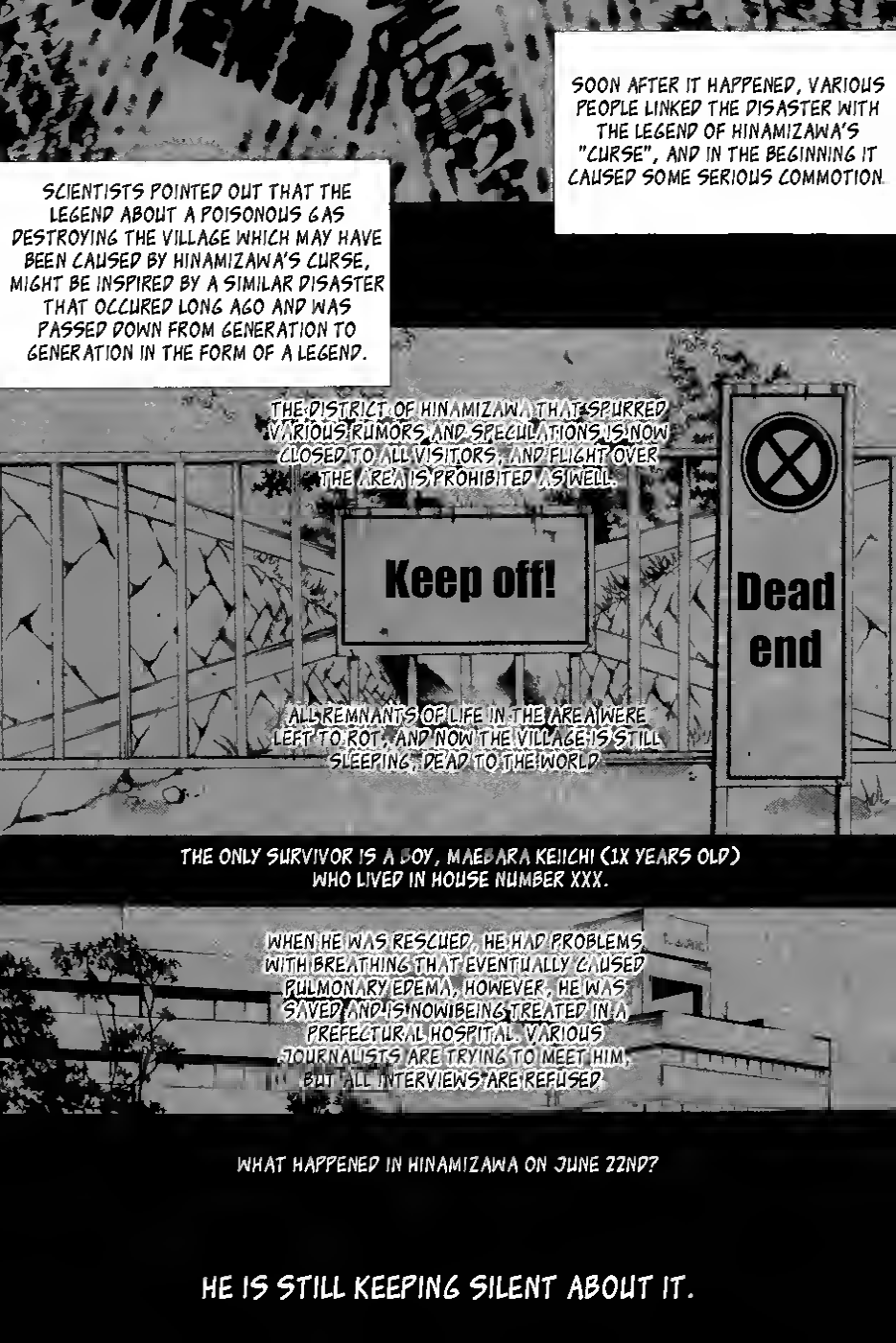
RELEASED

FROM THEM.

EARLY IN THE MORNING OF 22ND JUNE 1983, A LARGE-SCALE DISASTER OCCURED IN HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE OF XX PREFECTURE.

VOLCANIC GAS (HYDROGEN SULFIDE AND CARBON DIOXIDE) WAS EMITTED FROM ONIGAFUCHI SWAMP NEAR HINAMIZAWA AND THE WHOLE AREA WAS COVERED BY VAPORS.


1200 PEOPLE DIED AND 20 ARE MISSING. MORE THAN 60000 PEOPLE FROM NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS WERE EVACUATED. THE DISASTER IS UNPRECEDENTED
THE INVESTIGATION DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS A SOURCE OF MAGMA RIGHT BELOW THE ONIGAFUCHI SWAMP, AND THUS THE GAS THAT GUSHED OUT OF THE MAGMA WAS THE CAUSE OF THE DISASTER.


SOON AFTER IT HAPPENED, VARIOUS PEOPLE LINKED THE DISASTER WITH THE LEGEND OF HINAMIZAWA'S "CURSE", AND IN THE BEGINNING IT CAUSED SOME SERIOUS COMMOTION.
SCIENTISTS POINTED OUT THAT THE LEGEND ABOUT A POISONOUS GAS DESTROYING THE VILLAGE WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY HINAMIZAWA'S CURSE, MIGHT BE INSPIRED BY A SIMILAR DISASTER THAT OCCURED LONG AGO AND WAS PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION IN THE FORM OF A LEGEND.
THE DISTRICT OF HINAMIZAWA, THAT SPURRED VARIOUS RUMORS AND SPECULATIONS, IS NOW CLOSED TO ALL VISITORS, AND FLIGHT OVER THE AREA IS PROHIBITED AS WELL.
Keep off!
Dead end
ALL REMNANTS OF LIFE IN THE AREA WERE LEFT TO ROT, AND NOW THE VILLAGE IS STILL SLEEPING, DEAD TO THE WORLD.
THE ONLY SURVIVOR IS A BOY, MAEBARA KEIICHI (1X YEARS OLD) WHO LIVED IN HOUSE NUMBER XXX.
WHEN HE WAS RESCUED, HE HAD PROBLEMS WITH BREATHING THAT EVENTUALLY CAUSED PULMONARY EDEMA, HOWEVER, HE WAS SAVED AND IS NOW BEING TREATED IN A PREFECTURAL HOSPITAL. VARIOUS JOURNALISTS ARE TRYING TO MEET HIM, BUT ALL INTERVIEWS ARE REFUSED.
WHAT HAPPENED IN HINAMIZAWA ON JUNE 22ND?
HE IS STILL KEEPING SILENT ABOUT IT.

List of victims of the great Hinamizawa disaster.

Tomitake Jirou **(real name unknown)**
On June 19th, 1983, commited suicide in the village? Investigation suspended.
Takano Miyo
On June 19th, 1983, was strangled in Gifu mountains. The corpse was burnt. Investigation continues.
Ooishi Kuraudo
On June 20th, 1983, went missing. Investigation continues.
Kumagai Katsuya
On June 20th, 1983, went missing. Investigation continues.
Irie Kyousuke
On June 21th, 1983, committed suicide in the hospital? Investigation suspended.
Furude Rika
On June 21th, 1983, murdered in the shrine? Investigation suspended.
Ryuugu Reina
On June 22th, 1983, died in the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Sonozaki Mion
On June 22th, 1983, died in the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Sonozaki Oryou
On June 22th, 1983, died in the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Houjou Satoko
On June 22th, 1983, missing after the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Houjou Teppei
On June 22th, 1983, missing after the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Maebara Ichirou
On June 22th, 1983, died in the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Maebara Aiko
On June 22th, 1983, died in the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Tomita Daiki
On June 22th, 1983, died in the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Okamura Suguru
On June 22th, 1983, died in the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Chie Rumiko
On June 22th, 1983, died in an accident during the evacuation after the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Kimiyoshi Kiichirou
On June 22th, 1983, died in the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Kameda Yukikazu
On June 22th, 1983, died in an accident during the evacuation after the Hinamizawa Disaster.
Kasai Tatsuyoshi
On August 11th, 1983, died in the hospital.
Sonozaki Shion
On August 27th, 1983, commited suicide in the hospital. Investigation finished.

2003, LATE SUMMER

IN OSAKA PREFECTURE, AN OLD COUPLE WAS SORTING THROUGH THE PERSONAL BELONGINGS OF THEIR LATE SON WHO DIED 8 YEARS AGO AND DISCOVERED A CASSETTE TAPE.

THE SON (WHO WAS 47 YEARS OLD THEN) WENT MISSING IN 1995 AFTER THE CAPSIZING OF A FISHING BOAT.

THE VICTIM WAS WORKING OCCASIONALLY AS A REPORTER IN A WEEKLY PHOTO MAGAZINE FROM 1975 TO 1988. IT'S PRESUMED THAT THE TAPE CONTAINS HIS MATERIALS.

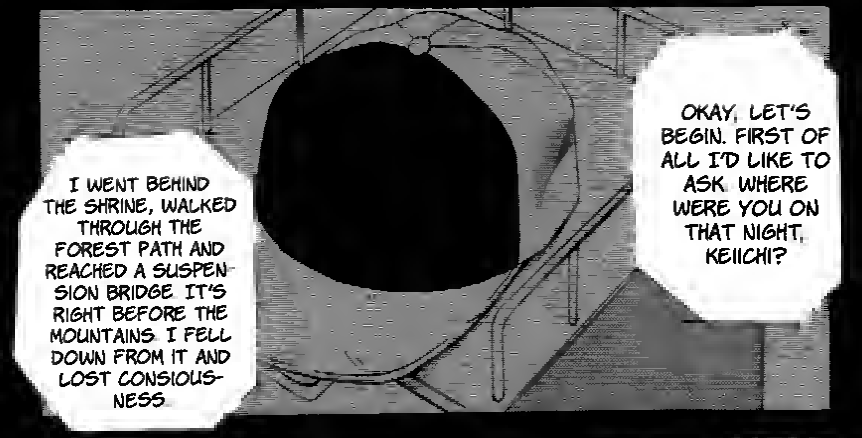
THE TAPE WAS LABELLED "NOVEMBER 28TH, 1983, MAEBARA KEIICHI".

THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAD SURVIVED THE DISASTER AND KNEW ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS NIGHT OF JUNE 22ND. HE ATTRACTED MUCH INTEREST, BUT HIS TESTIMONIES WERE NEVER PUBLISHED OPENLY.

THEREFORE, THE VALUE OF THIS TAPE MIGHT BE EXTREMELY HIGH.

DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY. LOOK, IF I DO IT LIKE THIS, IT WON'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL, RIGHT?
SOMEHOW IT'S DIFFICULT TO TALK WHEN YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE BEING RECORDED

FROM THIS POINT, THE RECORDING'S QUALITY IS VERY POOR. MAYBE THE RECORDER WAS COVERED BY SOMETHING?

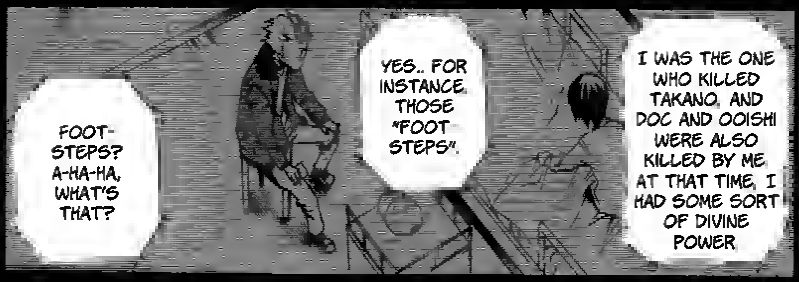

I WENT BEHIND THE SHRINE, WALKED THROUGH THE FOREST PATH AND REACHED A SUSPENSION BRIDGE. IT'S RIGHT BEFORE THE MOUNTAINS. I FELL DOWN FROM IT AND LOST CONSIOUSNESS.
OKAY, LET'S BEGIN. FIRST OF ALL I'D LIKE TO ASK. WHERE WERE YOU ON THAT NIGHT, KEIICHI?

HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMORS THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SURVIVE AT THAT RIVER BEACH?
I ALSO THINK THAT THIS IS A CRUEL SUPPOSITION DON'T MIND ME
I'M NOT JOKING, PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS
FRANKLY SPEAKING SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT YOU KNEW ABOUT THE DISASTER BEFOREHAND AND WERE ESCAPING FROM THE VILLAGE WHEN YOU FELL FROM THE BRIDGE
WHY DID YOU GO THERE? ISN'T IT FAR FROM BOTH THE SCHOOL AND YOUR HOUSE?

IMPOS-
SIBLE...
WHY IS IT IMPOS-
SIBLE?
AGAIN? "IMPOS-
SIBLE"
SCIENTISTS CREATED A PRE-
CISE MODEL AND CONDUCTED EX-
PERIMENTS TO DETERMINE THE EXACT TIME THE GAS FROM ONIGAFUCH! WOULD NEED TO COVER THE WHOLE VILLAGE AFTER THE EMISSION.
AND ACCORDING TO THOSE CALCULATIONS, THE GAS REACHED THAT BEACH WHEN YOU WERE LYING THERE.
IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU REALLY LAY UNCONSCIOUS AT THE RIVER BEACH, YOU ACTUALLY SPENT A NIGHT INHALING POISON-
OUS GAS.
FRANKLY SPEAKING, I ALSO THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN LYING
YOU WERE HIDING IN A SAFE PLACE... AND THEN YOU ES-
TIMATED WHEN THE VAPORS WOULD BECOME LESS DENSE, AND AP-
PEARED IN FRONT OF SELF-DEFENSE FORCES AT THAT TIME.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? DID I HIT THE BULL'S EYE?
NOT AT ALL. BUT EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE, IT WOULDN'T REALLY SURPRISE ME NOW.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN... WOULDN'T SURPRISE?

SOME PEOPLE DOUBT THAT THE VOICE ON THIS TAPE IS REALLY MAEBARA KEIICHI.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD TOO, BUT I'M ALIVE. ISN'T THAT PROOF? A-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
A PERSON WHO COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE AT A CERTAIN PLACE, WAS SEEN THERE. A PERSON WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD, TURNED OUT TO BE ALIVE. THOSE EVENTS WEREN'T RARE
YOU SAID IT A FEW MINUTES AGO, "IMPOSSIBLE". AT THAT TIME, MANY THINGS THAT OCCURRED IN HINAMIZAWA WERE "IMPOSSIBLE".
TO CHECK THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE RECORDING, THE TAPE WAS SHOWN TO THE RELATIVES OF MAEBARA FAMILY. HOWEVER, THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE RECORDING WAS MADE WERE UNCLEAR AND SINCE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME HAD PASSED, CONFIRMATION WASN'T RECEIVED.
WHAT DO I MEAN? I'M ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION.
EH? A-HA-HA, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NO. THAT'S NOT IT. ON THE FIFTH YEAR I WAS THE CURSE MYSELF.
A-HA HA-HA-HA-HA! OKAY, LET'S TALK ABOUT IT IN ANOTHER WAY. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THEORIES THAT THE DISASTER WAS RELATED TO THE SERIES OF MURDERS AND DISAPPEARANCES THAT HAD OCCURED FOR 5 YEARS IN A ROW AND WERE CALLED THE CURSE OF HINAMIZAWA?
THERE ARE ALSO DOUBTS THAT THE TAPE WAS REALLY RECORDED ON THE 28TH OF NOVEMBER.
IT HAPPENED BECAUSE I WISHED THAT THE WHOLE VILLAGE SHOULD DIE.
THAT DISASTER... WELL, EVEN IF I TELL YOU, YOU WON'T BELIEVE.
I CAUSED IT.

THE REASON IS THE FACT THAT 2 MONTHS AFTER THE DISASTER, IN AUGUST, MAEBARA KEIICHI ATTEMPTED TO COMMIT SUICIDE. HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A MENTAL DISORDER AND TRANSFERRED TO A MEDICAL FACILITY.


I WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED TAKANO, AND DOC AND OOISHI WERE ALSO KILLED BY ME. AT THAT TIME, I HAD SOME SORT OF DIVINE POWER.
YES.. FOR INSTANCE, THOSE "FOOT STEPS".
FOOT-STEPS? A-HA-HA, WHAT'S THAT?

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD FOOTSTEPS? PANT-PANT, PANT-PANT, HA-HA-HA-HA.
FROM THIS DAY ON-WARDS, WHENEVER YOU ARE WALKING, WHEN YOU STOP ABRUPTLY, THINGS WILL BECOME EXCITING... AND IF YOU HEAR ONE ODD FOOTSTEP, YOU BETTER BE CAREFUL. HA-HA-HA.

THAT FACILITY DIDN'T ALLOW ANY INTERVIEWS, SO THE PROBABILITY OF ANY RECORDING BEING MADE AFTER AUGUST OF 1983 IS EXTREMELY LOW.

ARE YOU EXCITED LISTENING TO ME?
A-HA-HA-HA!! YES, YES, BE CAREFUL! A-HA-HA!!
YOU'RE THE SAME AS THAT DOCTOR! HE ALSO TRIED TO SYMPATHIZE WITH ME AND PRETENDED TO BE LISTENING TO ME, AND BEHIND MY BACK, HE TREATED ME AS A FREAK!
YOU'RE REALLY SMILING IN A WEIRD WAY NOW.
HA-HA-HA, YOU'RE WRONG, A-HA-HA.
SINCE THAT DAY, I HAVEN'T HEARD THOSE FOOTSTEPS SO, PROBABLY, I DON'T HAVE THAT GREAT POWER ANY MORE. BUT STILL, I'LL TRY TO WISH YOU DEAD HERE AND NOW.
YES, AND I'LL TRY TO THINK ABOUT THE WAY YOU'LL DIE. TAKANO WAS BURNT TO DEATH...
THEN, YOU'LL DROWN!!
IF I STILL HAVE THAT POWER, THEN TOMORROW YOU'LL DEFINITELY DIE!! I WONDER, WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU? HA-HA-HA-HA-HA

俺如き
祟り殺サレルナンテ?
WILL YOU BE KILLED BY THE CURSE LIKE ME?

THEN

TWO DAYS AFTER THIS RECORDING WAS MADE, MAEBARA KEIICHI SUDDENLY DIED FROM HIGH FEVER. IN THE LOGS OF NURSE CALLS OF THE DAY WHEN HE DIED, THERE WERE STRANGE WORDS WRITTEN DOWN SEVERAL TIMES.

TATARIGOROSHI-HEN

THE END.

「祟殺し編」について
悲劇を打ち破るために

原作・監修：竜騎士07

「祟殺し編」は、「ひぐらしのなく頃に」の第3のシナリオで、いわゆる「ひぐらし出題編3部作」のラストを飾る重要なシナリオです。また、この世界の悲劇を打ち破るために必要な何かを探る意味で、もっとも重要なシナリオともなっています。

このシナリオは沙都子の受難が非常に痛々しく描かれております。また、何よりも恐ろしいのは、皆さんの身近にある日、突然、起こってもおかしくない生々しい現実感を伴っていることだと思います。

ある意味では、この「祟殺し編」は『ひぐらし』の中でもっとも浮いたシナリオで、ある意味では本編世界観ともっとも毛色を違えるシナリオと言えるかもしれません。ですが、このシナリオに隠された鍵はこれまたとても重要なものです。その重要さは出題編3部作の中でも群を抜いており、『ひぐらし』世界のマスターキーといっても過言でないくらい重要なものです。

残念ながら、このシナリオの中の圭一はそれを手にすることができませんでした。後のシナリオでやがて手に入れることとなるこの鍵、皆さんは見つけることができましたでしょうか…？

～祟殺し編～

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